

CBSE Class 12 2025 English Question Paper (1/5/2) With Solutions

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

SECTION A
(READING SKILLS)

1. Read the following passage carefully :

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

(i)

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

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

Quick Tip

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

(ii)

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

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

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

Solution: The writer refers to air pollution as a 'public health issue' in paragraph (1) because it is a threat to the physical well-being of the people. The passage highlights how pollutants pose significant health risks, such as respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, directly impacting the physical health of urban inhabitants.

Quick Tip

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

(iii)

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

blanket : cover : : extended : _____

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

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

Quick Tip

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

(iv)

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

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

- (A) mental health
- (B) economic development
- (C) respiratory functions
- (D) mobility

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

Quick Tip

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

(v)

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

”Children and the elderly are the most vulnerable groups affected by air pollution.”

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

Quick Tip

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

(vi)

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

Implementing stricter emission norms for vehicles can help to _____.

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

Quick Tip

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

(vii)

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

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

Quick Tip

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

(viii)

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

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

Quick Tip

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

(ix)

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

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

Quick Tip

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

(x)

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

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

Quick Tip

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

2.Read the following passage carefully :

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(6) **Conclusion** : The survey outcomes serve as a roadmap for designing targeted

interventions that not only cater to diverse demographic needs but also promote mental well-being. By harnessing the insights gleaned from this study, stakeholders can collaboratively work towards building healthier online communities and promoting sustainable digital practices for generations to come.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

(i)

Complete the following suitably:

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

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

Quick Tip

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

(ii)

Choose the correct option:

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

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

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

Quick Tip

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

(iii)

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

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

Quick Tip

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

(iv)

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

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

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

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

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

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

psychological state.

Quick Tip

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

(v)

Read the following text:

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

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

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

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

Quick Tip

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

(vi)

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

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

Quick Tip

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

(vii)

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

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

Quick Tip

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

(viii)

Select the appropriate response:

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

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

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

Quick Tip

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

SECTION B

(CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS)

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

(a) Your school is planning to open clubs for different extracurricular activities. As the Head of the organising committee, write a notice to inform the students about the clubs and invite registrations. Include all necessary details.

NOTICE

Date: [Insert Date]

Subject: Registration for Extracurricular Clubs

This is to inform all students that the school is organising extracurricular clubs for various activities. We invite all interested students to register for the clubs of their choice. The clubs will include [list the types of clubs]. Registration forms will be available at the [location]. Last date for registration: [insert date].

For more details, please contact the organising committee at [contact details].

Head of the Organising Committee

Your name

Quick Tip

Quick Tip: Make sure to mention the last date for registration clearly to ensure maximum participation.

OR

(b) Your school is organising an interactive session on 'Health and Safety Guidelines'. As the President of the Health Club, write a notice informing members from classes IX-XII about the interactive session and invite registrations for participation. Include other necessary details.

NOTICE

Date: [Insert Date]

Subject: Health and Safety Guidelines Session

This is to inform all members of the Health Club that an interactive session on 'Health and Safety Guidelines' will be organised on [insert date]. The session will cover essential health safety practices and guidelines. All students from classes IX - XII are invited to participate.

Please register your names at the Health Club office by [insert date]. For further details, contact the President of the Health Club.

President, Health Club

Quick Tip

Quick Tip: Ensure that you highlight the importance of safety measures in your notice to grab students' attention.

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

(a) Your school is organising a Career Mela. As President of Career Guidance and Counselling Club of your school, draft a formal invitation card in not more than 50 words, inviting parents and students for the Career Mela.

Career Mela Invitation

Date: [Insert Date]

Dear Parents and Students,

We are pleased to invite you to the Career Mela organised by the Career Guidance and Counselling Club. The event will be held on [insert date] at [insert location]. Various professionals will be present to provide valuable insights into different career options.

We look forward to your participation.

President, Career Guidance and Counselling Club

Your Name

Quick Tip

Quick Tip: Keep the invitation short and clear. Include key event details like date, time, and location to ensure effective communication.

OR

(b) You have been invited to attend the Annual Day celebrations in your son's school. Draft a formal letter in not more than 50 words, expressing regret for your inability to attend.

Date: [Insert Date]

Dear [Principal's Name],

I regret to inform you that I will not be able to attend the Annual Day celebrations at [School Name] on [insert date] due to prior commitments. I wish the event great success and extend my warm regards to all participants.

Sincerely,
Your name

Quick Tip

Quick Tip: When expressing regret, keep the tone polite and formal. Mention the reason briefly and wish success for the event.

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 "Importance of Mental Health Awareness among Teenagers". You are Ragini/Rajan, a school counsellor, living at 17/235, Sector 5, Newpur. You may use the following cues along with your own ideas to draft the letter.

- What are the mental health issues among teenagers?
- Examples highlighting the problem.
- Importance of early intervention.
- Role of schools, parents, and counselors.
- Suggestion of awareness programme and support system.

Date: [Insert Date]

To,

The Editor,

Name of the Newspaper,

Address of the Newspaper.

Subject: Importance of Mental Health Awareness among Teenagers

Respected Sir/Madam,

I am writing to draw attention to the importance of mental health awareness among teenagers. Mental health issues like stress, anxiety, and depression are becoming more prevalent among adolescents. These issues are often caused by academic pressure, peer pressure, and social media influence. Teenagers find it difficult to express their feelings, and as a result, many suffer in silence.

It is crucial to intervene early to prevent these issues from escalating. Schools, parents, and counsellors should work together to create an environment that promotes mental well-being. Awareness programmes and support systems should be implemented to educate teenagers on coping strategies.

I hope you will publish this letter to create more awareness about the mental health challenges faced by teenagers.

Yours sincerely,

Ragini/Rajan,

School Counsellor

Your Contact Details

Quick Tip

Quick Tip: Ensure the letter emphasizes early intervention and the importance of mental health awareness in schools. Encourage collaboration among educators, parents, and health professionals.

OR

(b) You are Radha/Ram living at 18, Jan Vihar, Nayapur. You have read the given advertisement and wish to apply for the post of Marketing Executive. Write a job application along with your bio-data.

ABC Corporation

requires

Marketing Executive

Qualification – BBA in marketing with 4 – 5 years work experience

Skills

- Proficiency in digital marketing
- Good communication skills
- Market research and analysis
- Strategic thinker

Apply with details to :

Director ABC Corporation, Nayapur

Date: [Insert Date]

To,

The Manager,
ABC Corporation,
Nayapur.

Subject: Application for the Post of Marketing Executive

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to apply for the position of Marketing Executive as advertised by ABC Corporation. I am a graduate in BBA with a specialization in Marketing and have 4-5 years of work experience in digital marketing, market research, and communication skills.

I am confident that my skills, including proficiency in digital marketing, strong communication skills, and ability to analyze market trends, will make me a valuable addition to your team. Please find my bio-data attached below for your reference.

I look forward to the opportunity to contribute to your team and discuss how I can help achieve ABC Corporation's marketing goals.

Yours sincerely,

Radha/Ram

Your Contact Details

Bio-data:

Name: Radha/Ram

Address: 18, Jan Vihar, Nayapur

Qualifications: BBA in Marketing

Experience: 4-5 years in Marketing

Skills: Digital marketing, communication, market research, strategic thinking

Quick Tip

Quick Tip: In a job application, make sure to highlight relevant skills and experience. Tailor your bio-data to the job description for better chances of selection.

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

(a) You are Seema/Sarvesh Khanna of Class XII-A and a member of the school magazine editorial board. Write a comprehensive report on the Community Service Programme organised by the school. Include a description of events and activities organised.

You may organise your report by the following:

- Who – What – When – Why – How

Community Service Programme Report

By: Seema/Sarvesh Khanna, Class XII-A

Who: The Community Service Programme was organised by our school with the active participation of students, teachers, and community members.

What: The event focused on environmental awareness and social service, including cleanliness drives, awareness campaigns on waste management, and donation drives for underprivileged children.

When: The programme was held from [insert date] to [insert date].

Why: The initiative aimed to encourage students to contribute to society and to understand the importance of community service.

How: Students volunteered in various activities, such as organizing awareness sessions, participating in community cleaning efforts, and raising funds for social causes.

The event was highly successful in promoting community responsibility among students and helped them develop a sense of social awareness.

Quick Tip

Quick Tip: When writing a report, ensure you cover all the key details (Who, What, When, Why, How) to provide a complete picture of the event or activity.

OR

(b) Write an article exploring the importance of Road Safety Awareness' among Indian youth providing examples to illustrate your points from daily life. You may use the following cues along with your own ideas. You are Puja/Puneet Rao, a Class XII student.

- Influence of modern transportation systems and urbanization on road safety.
- Methods of advocating for road safety. (e.g., campaigns, educational programmes, safety of drivers)
- Challenges faced by youth in promoting road safety.
- What are the benefits of road safety awareness for young people? How does it contribute to their sense of responsibility and community?
- Suggest ways to promote road safety.

Road Safety Awareness Among Indian Youth

By: Puja/Puneet Rao, Class XII

Road safety awareness is a critical issue among Indian youth. With the increasing number of vehicles on the roads, it has become essential for young people to understand the importance of road safety. Many accidents are caused due to reckless driving, overspeeding, and neglecting safety measures like wearing helmets or seat belts.

The urbanization and modern transportation systems have led to more vehicles on the roads, increasing the risk of accidents. Therefore, it is essential for youth to be educated about road safety through campaigns, educational programs, and awareness sessions.

Advocating road safety can be done through various channels such as school programs, social media, and government initiatives. Young people should be encouraged to follow traffic rules and set an example for others.

The benefits of road safety awareness are immense. It reduces accidents, saves lives, and helps promote responsible driving. Youth must take the lead in ensuring safety on the roads.

Topic: Road Safety Awareness

Quick Tip

Quick Tip: In an article, use real-life examples to highlight the importance of the topic. Support your arguments with facts and data to make your writing more convincing.

SECTION C (LITERATURE)

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

(A) or (B):

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

(Keeping Quiet)

(i) Select the line/s that suggests the following : The so-called victors of the wars are indifferent to the consequences of their actions.

Solution:

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

Quick Tip

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

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

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

Correct Answer: (C) sustainable peace

Solution:

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

Quick Tip

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

(iii) Complete the following suitably. "Would put on clean clothes?" 'Clean clothes' here refers to.....

Solution:

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

Quick Tip

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

(iv) Choose a word from the brackets to complete the following suitably : Phrases like 'victory with no survivors' illustrate the (irony/satire) in the situation where those claiming victory actually achieve nothing of true value.

Correct Answer: irony

Solution:

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

or achievement.

Quick Tip

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

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

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

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

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

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

Solution:

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

Quick Tip

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

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

Solution:

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

Quick Tip

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

OR

(b) A thing of beauty is a joy forever

Its loveliness increases, it will never

Pass into nothingness; but will keep

A bower quiet for us, and a sleep

Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing.

(A Thing of Beauty)

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

Solution:

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

Quick Tip

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

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

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

Correct Answer: (B) A noisy surrounding

Solution:

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

Quick Tip

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

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

Solution:

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

Quick Tip

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

(iv) **Choose a word from the brackets to complete the following suitably :** The phrase 'joy forever' implies that the essence of beauty is a source of..... (eternal/transient) peace and happiness.

Correct Answer: eternal

Solution:

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

Quick Tip

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

(v) **Read the following statements :** Assertion : The poet believes that beauty provides everlasting joy and comfort. Reason : Beauty creates an environment conducive to health and well-being. Choose the correct option from among the following :

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

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

Solution:

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

correct explanation of the assertion.

Quick Tip

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

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

Solution:

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

Quick Tip

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

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

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

(Journey to the end of the Earth)

(i) Complete the following suitably. The passage suggests that the author's Antarctic

experience was.....

Solution:

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

Quick Tip

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

(ii) Choose the correct option: The Shokalskiy was wedged in a thick stretch of ice. As a result the captain.....

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

Correct Answer: (D) decided to turn around

Solution:

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

Quick Tip

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

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

Solution:

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

Quick Tip

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

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

Solution:

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

Quick Tip

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

OR

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

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

(The Tiger King)

(i) **Complete the following suitably:** It was celebration time for all the tigers because.....

Solution:

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

Quick Tip

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

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

Solution:

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

Quick Tip

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

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

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

Correct Answer: (B) determined

Solution:

The king's vow indicates that he is a **determined** man. By prioritizing the hunting of a

hundred tigers over all other matters, he shows that he is highly focused on his goal and will not be diverted from it, no matter the obstacles. His resolution to achieve this ambition demonstrates determination.

Quick Tip

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

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

Solution:

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

Quick Tip

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

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

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

was saying.

(Poets and Pancakes)

(i) Give a brief description of the editor.

Solution:

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

Quick Tip

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

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

Solution:

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

Quick Tip

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

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

Solution:

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

Quick Tip

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

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

Solution:

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

Quick Tip

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

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

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

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

Solution:

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

Quick Tip

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

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

Solution:

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

Quick Tip

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

OR

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

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

(The Interview)

(i) Complete the following suitably: Eco suggests that his books for children also share his ethical interest because they are about..... (violence/peace).

Solution:

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

Quick Tip

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

(ii) Complete the following suitably: Umberto Eco's philosophical interests are in his academic work and novels, making them interconnected.

Solution:

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

Quick Tip

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

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

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

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

Solution:

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

Quick Tip

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

(iv) **What does the following line from the extract showcase?** "The same bunch of ethical, philosophical interests".

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

Correct Answer: (B) interconnectedness

Solution:

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

Quick Tip

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

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

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

Correct Answer: (C) management of space

Solution:

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

Quick Tip

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

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

Solution:

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

Quick Tip

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

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

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

Solution:

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

Quick Tip

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

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

Solution:

Sophie plans to earn the money for her boutique by opening a bank account and saving money from the job she would get. She dreams of a career in fashion and hopes to invest in her own boutique by setting aside the money she makes.

Quick Tip

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

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

Solution:

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

Quick Tip

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

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

Solution:

Rajkumar Shukla is described as resolute because of his unshakable determination to achieve

his goal of obtaining justice for the indigo farmers. Despite many challenges and opposition, he persistently followed Gandhiji and convinced him to take action, demonstrating his unwavering resolve.

Quick Tip

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

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

Solution:

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

Quick Tip

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

(vi) How is beauty seen in the ’grandeur of the dooms’? (A Thing of Beauty)

Solution:

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

Quick Tip

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

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

(i) What was the most shocking discovery made by Charley when he was going through the first day covers of his grandfather's collection? (The Third Level)

Solution:

The most shocking discovery Charley made was that one of the first day covers in his grandfather's collection had a postmark from the year 1894. This was puzzling because Charley had thought that the collection was only from the 1940s, leading him to question the authenticity and mystery of time travel.

Quick Tip

Look for details in the story that trigger a sense of confusion or mystery. Charley's discovery challenges his perception of reality and time.

(ii) What did the hunters realise when they looked at the hundredth tiger? (The Tiger King)

Solution:

When the hunters looked at the hundredth tiger, they realized that the tiger was the last one they had to hunt. The king had achieved his goal of killing a hundred tigers, but ironically, the hunter's victory came at the cost of the tiger population, which was soon to be extinct.

Quick Tip

Look for moments of irony or unexpected outcomes in stories. The realization about the last tiger is a key turning point in the narrative.

(iii) What was the aim of the project 'Students on Ice'? (Journey to the end of the Earth)

Solution:

The aim of the 'Students on Ice' project was to give students the opportunity to visit Antarctica and learn about the impact of climate change on the polar regions. The project aimed to educate and inspire young minds to become advocates for environmental conservation.

Quick Tip

Look for projects or initiatives that focus on education and environmental awareness. Such efforts are often centered around hands-on experiences to inspire change.

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

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

Solution:

In "My Mother at Sixty-six," Kamala Das conveys the internal conflict of the poet as she witnesses her aging mother. The poet is overwhelmed by a feeling of helplessness and fear at the thought of her mother's inevitable death. The conflict arises from the poet's desire to protect her mother while simultaneously accepting the passage of time. On the other hand, in "Aunt Jennifer's Tigers," the internal conflict in Aunt Jennifer's life is revealed through her creation of strong, fearless tigers in her embroidery. The tigers symbolize her longing for freedom and power in contrast to the reality of her oppressed, restricted life. Her internal conflict is shown through her inability to break free from societal norms, despite her creative expression. Both poems beautifully capture the tension between reality and the desire for something better.

Quick Tip

Look for symbolism in poems that contrast inner desires and external circumstances to uncover internal conflicts.

OR

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

Solution:

In "The Last Lesson" by Alphonse Daudet, the socio-political factor of war directly affects education. When the German forces invade Alsace and Lorraine, they impose the German

language on the local population, and the teaching of French is banned. The story highlights how the French language, a symbol of cultural identity, is suppressed due to political conflict. The teacher's last lesson symbolizes the loss of freedom and the impact of war on education. In "Lost Spring" by Anees Jung, the story portrays how socio-economic conditions hinder education for impoverished children. The two boys, Saeeda and the narrator, are forced to work in rag-picking or glass-blowing to survive. The lack of access to proper education reflects the impact of poverty and social neglect. Both stories vividly depict how education is often shaped or limited by larger socio-political factors like war and poverty.

Quick Tip

Look for examples where the political climate or socio-economic background affects the opportunities and access to education for the characters.

13. Answer any one of the following two questions in 120 - 150 words:

(a) The author vividly describes the trauma of Zitkala-Sa and Bama in 'Memories of Childhood'. Support with examples from the texts, to illustrate the prejudices that were present in society.

Solution:

In "Memories of Childhood," both Zitkala-Sa and Bama experience deep trauma due to the societal prejudices they face. Zitkala-Sa, a Native American girl, is forcibly made to cut her long hair and adopt white cultural norms. She experiences alienation and humiliation, symbolized by the cutting of her hair, which represents the loss of her identity. This reflects the prejudice faced by indigenous people as they are coerced to assimilate into mainstream society. Similarly, Bama, in her account from "Memories of Childhood," faces the oppressive caste system. She describes the humiliation she feels when her fellow students look down upon her because of her Dalit background. Both women's experiences highlight how societal norms and prejudices, based on race and caste, impose psychological trauma and restrict their freedom to embrace their true identities.

Quick Tip

Focus on key incidents where characters are subjected to discrimination or cultural suppression, which can highlight societal prejudice.

OR

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

(The Enemy)

Solution:

Dr. Sadao, a Japanese surgeon, faces a moral dilemma when he finds an injured American prisoner on the shore. Despite the political tension of World War II, Dr. Sadao decides to save the prisoner's life. After performing surgery on him, Dr. Sadao plans the prisoner's escape by providing him with the necessary resources. He arranges for a boat to be ready, hiding it at a location that is not easily detectable. Dr. Sadao also gives the prisoner money and clothes to help him escape to a safe location. The escape plan is executed with great caution to avoid detection by the authorities. Dr. Sadao's decision reflects his human compassion and his willingness to defy social and political norms to do what is morally right.

Quick Tip

Look for moments when characters act according to their moral beliefs, even when it goes against societal expectations or political pressures. Dr. Sadao's actions in this story highlight this theme.
