

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

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

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

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

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

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

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

gap.

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

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

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:

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

Solution:

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

Quick Tip

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

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

Solution:

The author describes the 'digital divide' as the gap between people who have access to the

internet and digital devices, and those who do not. In rural and economically disadvantaged communities, many students lack the necessary resources to participate in online education, leading to unequal access to education.

Quick Tip

The digital divide not only affects access to the internet but also limits access to opportunities for education, exacerbating educational inequalities.

(iii) Read the following sentence:

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

The concern the above statement points towards is

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

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

B. a growing divide in the educational opportunities for children

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

Solution:

The concern raised in the sentence is about the widening divide in educational opportunities. Students in rural and economically disadvantaged areas lack the resources for online education, thus hindering their access to learning opportunities compared to those with better access.

Quick Tip

The lack of access to digital devices and the internet creates a significant educational gap, particularly for students in underserved areas.

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

Solution:

The lack of social interaction in digital learning environments limits students' development

of crucial social skills, such as communication, teamwork, and emotional development. This absence also reduces their opportunities for collaborative learning, which is essential for holistic growth.

Quick Tip

Social interaction is key to building emotional intelligence and communication skills, which are vital for students' overall development.

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

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

Solution:

In paragraph (3), the author mentions: "The absence of a structured classroom environment can lead to distractions and reduced motivation among students." This directly supports the idea that lack of structure in digital learning can cause a decrease in student focus.

Quick Tip

Structure and discipline are essential in maintaining student motivation and focus, which are often lacking in a purely digital learning environment.

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

flexibility : adaptability :: integrated :

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

Correct answer: (C) balanced

Solution:

The correct answer is **(C) balanced**. The analogy compares "flexibility" with "adaptability," and similarly, "integrated" is related to "balanced," which is the ideal approach for combining online and offline learning methods.

Quick Tip

Look for relationships in analogies where both pairs share a similar contextual meaning, such as integration and balance in educational settings.

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

Solution:

One key benefit of continuous upskilling and reskilling is that it helps individuals stay relevant in a rapidly changing job market by acquiring new skills and improving their knowledge, ensuring they remain competitive in their respective fields.

Quick Tip

Lifelong learning is essential to remain adaptable and valuable in today's dynamic job market.

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

Solution:

Lifelong learning through digital platforms offers flexibility for learners to acquire new skills without disrupting their daily lives. However, the challenge lies in ensuring equitable access to digital education, particularly for those in rural or economically disadvantaged communities.

Quick Tip

Lifelong learning promotes continuous personal growth, but challenges like digital access and equity need to be addressed for it to be effective.

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

(A) refrain

- (B) replicate
- (C) nurture
- (D) commemorate

Correct answer: (C) nurture

Solution:

The correct answer is **(C) nurture**. The passage emphasizes the need to foster a supportive environment for digital education, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility for all segments of society.

Quick Tip

Nurturing an environment that supports equitable access to education is vital for the success of digital India.

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

- (A) educators and policy-makers help create sustainable solutions.
- (B) we shift back to traditional classrooms.
- (C) we further extend the digital divide.
- (D) we control the internet connections.

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

Solution:

The passage highlights that harnessing digital education's full potential depends on collaboration among educators, policy-makers, and the private sector to develop sustainable and inclusive solutions.

Quick Tip

Collaboration between stakeholders is key to creating an effective and equitable digital education system.

2. Read the following passage carefully :

(1) Introduction : In the face of rapid urbanization, effective waste management has become

a critical issue in Indian cities. This case study aims to analyze the recycling practices among different demographics in urban India and their implications for sustainable urban development.

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

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

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

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

(5) Implications for Interventions : By discerning the diverse preferences among different age groups, policy-makers and environmental activists can not only make interventions to

address specific demographic needs, but also delve into the underlying motivations and influences guiding these choices. For instance, targeting educational campaigns towards teenagers and young adults could empower them to adopt sustainable waste management practices. Concurrently, efforts to enhance the infrastructure for segregation at source and provide incentives for recycling could improve overall waste management.

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

Answer the following questions, based on the given passage:

(i) Complete the following suitably:

In the introduction, the researcher links rapid urbanization with waste management by highlighting that *effective waste management has become a critical issue due to the increased population density, consumption, and waste generation in urban areas.*

Solution:

The researcher links rapid urbanization to waste management by emphasizing that the increasing population and consumption patterns in cities contribute to growing waste production, making effective waste management a critical issue.

Quick Tip

Urbanization leads to higher consumption and waste generation, which in turn makes waste management more challenging.

(ii) What would the following be classified as?

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

Select the appropriate response.

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

(D) Research outcome

Correct answer: (A) Primary purpose

Solution:

The main goal of the survey, as stated in the methodology, is to examine waste management practices across different age groups in detail. Therefore, this is the primary purpose of the study.

Quick Tip

The primary purpose of a study typically addresses the main research question or goal, while secondary objectives provide additional insights.

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

Solution:

1. Recycling is a widely recognized practice that contributes to environmental conservation and sustainability, which aligns with the growing awareness among the younger demographics about climate change and waste reduction.
2. Given that recycling practices have gained popularity in urban India due to awareness programs and government initiatives, it is logical that participants were given this option to understand its role in waste management.

Quick Tip

Recycling is a crucial practice for sustainable waste management, and its inclusion in the survey reflects its significance in modern waste disposal strategies.

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

- (A) Targeting educational campaigns towards teenagers and young adults could empower them to adopt sustainable waste management practices.
- (B) Efforts to enhance the infrastructure for segregation at source.

Solution:

(A) *Motivation*: It refers to empowering teenagers and young adults, which is a motivational approach aimed at changing behaviour.

(B) *Intervention*: It refers to an action to improve waste management infrastructure, which is a direct intervention to solve the issue.

Quick Tip

Motivation seeks to influence or inspire people's actions, while interventions involve implementing practical solutions.

(v) Read the following text:

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

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

- (A) Radhika - middle-aged; Ragini - young adult; Mrs. Gupta - elderly
- (B) Radhika - teenager; Ragini - young adult; Mrs. Gupta - elderly
- (C) Radhika - young adult; Ragini - elderly; Mrs. Gupta - middle-aged
- (D) Radhika - elderly; Ragini - middle-aged; Mrs. Gupta - teenager

Correct answer: (B) Radhika - teenager; Ragini - young adult; Mrs. Gupta - elderly

Solution:

Radhika is participating in school programmes, which suggests she is a teenager. Ragini's preference for recycling and reusing aligns with the characteristics of a young adult. Mrs. Gupta, who sticks to traditional disposal, likely belongs to the elderly demographic due to habit and lack of awareness.

Quick Tip

The characteristics of participants (e.g., their engagement with programs or habits) help categorize them into specific demographics.

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

Solution:

The higher percentage of young adults adopting recycling methods can be attributed to greater awareness of environmental issues, social responsibility, and the influence of sustainability-focused education and peer pressure.

Quick Tip

Young adults are often more aware of environmental issues due to education and social influences, making them more likely to engage in sustainable practices.

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

(paragraph 5)

Solution:

Targeted interventions allow stakeholders to address the specific preferences of each age group. For example, educating teenagers and young adults about recycling and sustainability, while enhancing the infrastructure for waste segregation, can lead to improved participation in waste management and promote long-term environmental sustainability.

Quick Tip

Targeting interventions based on age group preferences ensures that the right approach is used to encourage responsible waste management behaviours.

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

- (A) Increase profitability through enhanced recycling infrastructure
- (B) Build cleaner urban environments
- (C) Reduce the cost of waste management
- (D) Expand the range of recycling programmes available

Correct answer: (B) Build cleaner urban environments

Solution:

The ultimate goal of stakeholders, as stated in the passage, is to work towards building cleaner and more sustainable urban environments through informed interventions and improved waste management practices.

Quick Tip

The overarching aim of environmental initiatives is to create cleaner, more sustainable cities, ensuring a better quality of life for residents.

SECTION B (CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS)

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

(a) Your school has recently set up a 'Lost and Found Department'. As President of the department, write a notice informing students of the same. Include instructions on details to be submitted, such as description, time, location, etc. of the lost items. Include the necessary details. Put your notice in a box.

NOTICE

NOTICE

Lost and Found Department

This is to inform all students that the school has set up a 'Lost and Found Department' in the main office. Any student who has lost an item is requested to report the following details:

- A brief description of the lost item
- The date, time, and location where it was lost
- Contact information

Please report all lost items promptly to help us return them to their rightful owners.

For more information, visit the Lost and Found Department.

President, Lost and Found Department

Quick Tip

Remember to include the key details: description of the item, location, and contact info.
Always keep the notice brief and to the point.

OR

(b)As President of the Social Service Club of your school, write a notice mentioning a volunteer opportunity for students of Classes IX - XII during the forthcoming summer vacation. Include necessary details about timing, location and duration of the volunteer programme. Put your notice in a box.

NOTICE

NOTICE

Volunteer Opportunity for Summer Vacation

The Social Service Club invites students of Classes IX - XII to volunteer for various community service projects during the upcoming summer vacation.

Details:

- **Duration:** 2 months (from June to July)
- **Timing:** 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Monday to Friday
- **Location:** School Community Hall

Students interested in making a positive impact are encouraged to apply. Sign-up sheets are available at the Social Service Club office.

President, Social Service Club

Quick Tip

Make sure the notice is clear, with all necessary details like the time, location, and contact points for students to apply.

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

(a) You are the Principal of Happy Montessori School, Kanpur. Your school has shown outstanding success in the board examination. Draft a formal invitation card inviting parents of Class XII and other PTA members to the prize-giving ceremony, celebrating the success of students for their academic and extracurricular achievements. Invent necessary details.

NOTICE

INVITATION

We are pleased to invite you to the Prize-Giving Ceremony of Happy Montessori School, Kanpur, celebrating the exceptional academic and extracurricular achievements of our Class XII students. Your presence will make the event even more special as we honor the hard work and success of our students.

Date: 20th May 2023

Time: 4:00 PM

Venue: School Auditorium

We look forward to welcoming you.

Principal, Happy Montessori School

Quick Tip

For a formal invitation, always include essential details like date, time, and location. Keep the tone respectful and celebratory.

OR

(b) You are Shreya/Sanjay Rao. Your child is participating in a play to be enacted on the school annual day. You have received an invitation to attend the same. Draft a reply in not more than 50 words accepting the invitation.

NOTICE

REPLY TO INVITATION

Dear [Name],

I am pleased to accept the invitation to attend the school's annual day, where my child will be performing in the play. We look forward to being part of this wonderful event and celebrating the hard work of the students.

Best regards,

Shreya Rao

Quick Tip

In a formal reply, make sure to express gratitude, confirm attendance, and keep the message concise and respectful.

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

(a) You are Sonali/Shivam of 52, Main Street, Green City. Write a letter to the editor of a local daily expressing your views on the usage of increased screen time among children and its effects. You may use the following cues along with your own ideas to draft the letter.

- What is meant by increased screen time ?
- What are the negative effects on physical and mental health ?
- What is the impact on academic performance and social skills ?
- How can parents and educators help in effectively managing screen time ?

Solution:

To,

The Editor,

XYZ Daily Newspaper,

City Name, Date.

Subject: Increased screen time among children and its effects.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am Sonali, a resident of 52, Main Street, Green City, and I am writing this letter to express my concern about the increasing screen time among children and its harmful effects.

Increased screen time refers to the prolonged usage of electronic devices like phones, computers, and tablets. While technology has numerous advantages, it comes with serious health risks. Prolonged screen time is linked to various physical problems such as poor eyesight, bad posture, and obesity. Additionally, excessive screen exposure can lead to

mental health issues, including stress and anxiety.

Academic performance is also negatively affected as children become distracted by their devices, resulting in poor concentration on studies. Social skills are impacted as children spend more time online than interacting with their peers.

Parents and educators can play a key role in regulating screen time by setting time limits, encouraging outdoor activities, and fostering meaningful social interactions. It is essential that children learn to balance screen use with other important aspects of their lives.

Thank you for considering this issue.

Yours sincerely,

Sonali

52, Main Street, Green City.

Quick Tip

When writing a letter to the editor, maintain a formal tone and structure. Provide clear arguments and present your views in a concise manner, supported by facts and examples.

OR

(b) You are Sonali/Rahul from 46, G Street, Panipur. You read the given advertisement regarding the position of a graphic designer at Creative Studios. You decide to apply for the same. Write your application along with your biodata.

- Job Role: Graphic Designer
- Experience: min. 5 years
- Design logos
- Produce multimedia presentations
- Develop layout for magazines and brochures
- Skills: Adobe Photoshop, CorelDRAW, Adobe InDesign

Solution:

To,

The Hiring Manager,

Creative Studios,

Panipur.

Subject: Application for the position of Graphic Designer.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to apply for the position of Graphic Designer at Creative Studios as advertised. I am Rahul, a resident of 46, G Street, Panipur, and I have over 5 years of experience in the field of graphic designing.

I am skilled in designing logos, creating multimedia presentations, and developing layouts for magazines and brochures. I am proficient in Adobe Photoshop, CorelDRAW, and Adobe InDesign, which I believe will allow me to contribute effectively to your team.

Enclosed are my biodata and work samples for your review. I am eager to contribute to the creative efforts at Creative Studios and look forward to the opportunity to discuss my qualifications further.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Rahul

46, G Street, Panipur.

Quick Tip

When writing a job application, ensure that you clearly state your qualifications, relevant skills, and experience. Tailor your application to the specific job role by aligning your expertise with the job requirements mentioned in the advertisement.

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

(a) You are Anjali/Anjan, a Class XII student. Write an article exploring the role of youth in environmental conservation in India. Provide examples to illustrate your points. You may use the following cues along with your own ideas.

- Effects of modern technologies and urbanization on India's environment.
- Challenges faced by youth in promoting environmental sustainability.
- What are the benefits of environmental conservation for young people?
- Suggest ways in which young people and institutions can work together to promote environmental conservation.

Solution:

Role of Youth in Environmental Conservation in India

India's environment is facing various challenges, largely driven by the rapid urbanization and the effects of modern technologies. The youth, however, play a crucial role in tackling these issues. They are not only more aware but also more actively involved in initiatives aimed at sustainable development.

One of the significant challenges is the rapid urbanization, which leads to pollution, deforestation, and excessive resource consumption. The youth of today, however, are leading the charge in raising awareness about these issues. They are involved in campaigns, educational programs, and even in tree plantation drives to combat deforestation and air pollution.

Environmental conservation brings several benefits for young people. Not only does it ensure a better quality of life and a healthier environment for them in the future, but it also creates a sense of responsibility. It encourages them to take initiative in preserving natural resources and curbing pollution, ensuring the long-term health of the planet.

The youth can work alongside institutions like schools, NGOs, and governmental bodies to create more impactful environmental movements. By using technology and social media, they can reach a larger audience, organize events like clean-up drives, and implement sustainable practices in their daily lives. By focusing on environmental conservation, the youth of India can create a lasting impact on the planet and future generations.

Quick Tip

Engaging the youth in environmental conservation is not just about education, but also about giving them the tools and platforms to take action. Encourage young people to be part of sustainability initiatives!

OR

(b) Write a comprehensive report detailing the activities undertaken by students as part of the International Women’s Day celebrations. You are Aarushi/Aarav, a Class XII student and a member of the school magazine editorial board. Include descriptions of the events, participation details, and overall impact of these activities on the school community. You may organize your report by using the following cues:

- Who – What – When – Where – Why – How

Solution:

Report on International Women’s Day Celebrations

Who:

The International Women’s Day celebrations were organized by the school’s editorial board, led by Aarushi, with the active participation of students from all grades.

What:

Various activities were planned for the day, including speech competitions, poster-making contests, and a discussion panel. The theme for the year was “Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women.”

When:

The celebrations took place on March 8th, coinciding with International Women’s Day, and continued throughout the day.

Where:

The events were held in the school auditorium, with additional activities taking place in the school corridors and classrooms.

Why:

The purpose of these activities was to raise awareness about gender equality, empower young minds to contribute towards societal change, and acknowledge the achievements of women across the globe.

How:

Students from various grades participated in speeches, presenting topics ranging from women's rights to inspirational women in history. Posters were created showcasing the achievements of women in different sectors, and a panel discussion was organized to discuss the importance of gender equality. These activities fostered a sense of unity, awareness, and respect among the school community.

Quick Tip

Celebrating International Women's Day in school helps create awareness and promotes respect for gender equality. It also provides a platform for students to express their views on important societal issues.

SECTION C
(LITERATURE)

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

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

(Keeping Quiet)

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

Solution: The poet emphasizes that the desire for peace and stillness should not be mistaken for complete inactivity or inaction. The poet advocates for reflection and mindfulness, not the abandonment of life. It is not about halting life entirely but about finding balance, understanding the significance of quiet moments while still valuing the essence of life itself.

Quick Tip

It's important to understand that peace doesn't mean halting everything. Sometimes, it's about slowing down to reflect and rejuvenate, not total inactivity.

(ii) What does the term single-mindedness not imply in the given extract?

- (A) persistence
- (B) determination
- (C) narrow-mindedness
- (D) tenacity

Correct Answer: (C) narrow-mindedness

Solution: The term "single-mindedness" in the extract refers to an obsessive or overly focused attitude towards a single goal, such as keeping life busy and moving without reflecting on its true purpose. It does not imply persistence, determination, or tenacity, which are usually positive attributes. In this case, it is associated with narrow-mindedness.

Quick Tip

Single-mindedness often leads to a narrow view of life. It's important to have flexibility and room for reflection rather than getting stuck in a single track.

(iii) In the line 'Life is what it is about', the phrase 'it' refers to

Solution: In the line "Life is what it is about", the phrase 'it' refers to life itself. The poet is asserting that life, in its essence, is about living fully, experiencing its moments, and being present.

Quick Tip

Life is about embracing the present moment. When we focus on "living" rather than just existing, we connect deeply with the essence of life.

(iv) The poet has used the phrase 'total inactivity' to illustrate in the perception that

peace means doing nothing.

Correct Answer: irony

Solution: The poet uses the phrase "total inactivity" to illustrate **irony**. The poet suggests that peace is often misunderstood as doing nothing, whereas true peace is about engaging in reflection and mindfulness, not complete stagnation.

Quick Tip

Irony can highlight misconceptions about peace. True peace is not about doing nothing; it's about being mindful and present, regardless of activity.

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

Assertion: The poet values an active and meaningful life.

Reason: Inactivity is equated with leisure, which the poet rejects.

- (A) Both the assertion and the reason are true.
- (B) The assertion is true, but the reason is false.
- (C) Both the assertion and the reason are false.
- (D) Both the assertion and the reason are true, but the

Correct Answer: (B) The assertion is true, but the reason is false.

Solution: The assertion is true as the poet values an active life filled with purpose, while the reason is false because the poet rejects the idea of total inactivity, not leisure itself. The poet advocates for a balanced life, not complete idleness.

Quick Tip

An active life doesn't mean constant busyness. It's about meaningful engagement with life, while avoiding mindless activity.

(vi) State in one sentence, what advice you would give to those engaged in ceaseless mechanized activity.

Solution: The advice would be to pause, reflect, and take time to connect with the present moment, as constant mechanical activity without purpose or reflection leads to burnout and a

lack of true fulfillment.

Quick Tip

Sometimes, stopping and reflecting can rejuvenate the mind and soul, helping us return to work with renewed clarity and purpose.

OR

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

(A Thing of Beauty)

(i) Select the phrase that suggests the following: In difficult times, beauty comes to our aid, in some form or the other, to make us overcome these difficulties.

Solution: The phrase "Some shape of beauty moves away the pall" suggests that beauty comes to our aid in difficult times to uplift our spirits and overcome hardships.

Quick Tip

Even in the darkest times, beauty has the power to uplift us, whether through nature, art, or human connection.

Topic - Beauty, Upliftment, Overcoming Hardship

(ii) What does the imagery of 'flowery band' not represent in the given extract?

- (A) connections to life
- (B) a thing of beauty
- (C) imprisonment
- (D) earthly ties

Correct Answer: (C) imprisonment

Solution: The imagery of the "flowery band" represents connections to life, ties to the earth,

and a thing of beauty. It does not represent imprisonment.

Quick Tip

The "flowery band" represents the connection and beauty that ties us to life, not a restriction or imprisonment.

(iii) Complete the following suitably. In the line, 'moves away the pall from our dark spirits', the phrase 'the pall' refers to

Solution: The phrase 'the pall' refers to the heaviness or sadness that clouds our spirits, symbolizing despair and gloom.

Quick Tip

A "pall" often represents a sense of gloom or darkness. Beauty helps lift this mental and emotional burden.

(iv) The poet's use of the phrase 'inhuman dearth' illustrates the (scarcity/plentitude) of noble human qualities.

Solution: The phrase 'inhuman dearth' illustrates the scarcity of noble human qualities, as the poet laments the lack of goodness and nobility in the world.

Quick Tip

"Inhuman dearth" highlights a scarcity of noble qualities, emphasizing how rare true goodness is in the world.

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

Assertion: The poet values beauty as it overcomes despondence and gloom.

Reason: Beauty, despite the world's hardships, provides comfort and lifts our spirit.

(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, and the reason correctly explains the assertion. The poet emphasizes that beauty has the power to overcome gloom and offer comfort.

Quick Tip

Beauty provides a source of hope and comfort, especially in challenging times. It lifts the spirit and helps overcome negativity.

(vi) State in one sentence, what advice would you give to those facing dark times.

Solution: In dark times, seek beauty in small things, as it has the power to uplift your spirits and bring light to even the most challenging situations.

Quick Tip

In times of hardship, focus on finding beauty in your surroundings, as it can offer solace and strength when you need it most.

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

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

(Journey to the end of the Earth)

(i) What was the climate like in Antarctica before humans arrived on the global scene?

Solution:

The climate in Antarctica before humans arrived was **much warmer**, and it hosted a wide variety of flora and fauna, as indicated in the passage. The description highlights that the environment was significantly different from today's cold conditions, emphasizing a richer and more diverse ecosystem.

Quick Tip

Look for words describing the environment in the passage, such as "warmer" or "different," which can indicate contrasts with the present.

(ii)

Gondwana existed nearly

Solution:

Gondwana existed nearly **500 million years ago**, according to the passage. The text explicitly mentions that Gondwana thrived for 500 million years before the landmass separated into distinct continents.

Quick Tip

When a specific time frame like "500 million years ago" is mentioned, it gives us precise historical context for understanding the evolution of Earth.

(iii) Select the suitable option to complete the following:

Gondwana, separating into countries, contributes to the reader's understanding of the

- (A) complexity of geological processes
- (B) simplicity of continental formation
- (C) speed of geological changes
- (D) stability of ancient landmasses

Correct Answer: (A) **complexity of geological processes**

Solution:

The correct answer is (A) **complexity of geological processes**. The passage describes the significant changes Gondwana underwent, separating into multiple countries. This suggests complex geological processes at play, particularly the shifting and dividing of landmasses over time.

Quick Tip

When a question relates to processes or changes, think about how the actions described in the passage contribute to broader concepts like complexity or speed.

(iv) What difference does the author draw between then and now?

Solution:

The author highlights that the main difference between then and now is the **arrival of humans** and the subsequent cooling of the climate. The passage contrasts the warmer climate and diverse flora and fauna of Gondwana with the present-day condition of Antarctica, which is cold and largely devoid of life.

Quick Tip

Focus on words like "then" and "now" in the passage, as they often mark comparisons between past and present, helping you identify key differences.

OR

(b) Not that he faced no dangers. There were times when the bullet missed its mark, the tiger leapt upon him and he fought the beast with his bare hands. Each time it was the Maharaja who won. At another time he was in danger of losing his throne. A high-ranking British officer visited Pratibandapuram. He was very fond of hunting tigers. And fonder of being photographed with the tigers he had shot.

(The Tiger King)

(i) Complete the following suitably: The passage indicates that the British officer visited

Pratibandapuram because

Solution:

The passage suggests that the British officer visited Pratibandapuram because he was **fond of hunting tigers** and wanted to be photographed with the tigers he had shot. This implies that the officer's primary interest was in hunting and gaining recognition for his exploits.

Quick Tip

Look for words like "fond of" or "interested in" to understand the motivation behind someone's actions, especially when related to hobbies or personal interests.

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

Solution:

The Maharaja faced the danger of **being attacked by the tiger** during the hunt. The passage describes how the tiger leapt upon him, and he fought the beast with his bare hands, indicating that his life was at risk during these encounters.

Quick Tip

In descriptive passages involving action or conflict, focus on the verbs describing what happened, such as "leapt upon" or "fought," to identify the dangers faced by characters.

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

Solution:

From the given extract, it is evident that the Maharaja was a **brave and resilient** man. Despite the dangers of hunting tigers and the threat to his throne, he repeatedly overcame these challenges, suggesting his courage and determination.

Quick Tip

When describing a character's traits, look for actions that reveal their qualities, such as bravery or resilience, in the face of challenges.

(iv) Select the suitable option to complete the following:

The phrase 'fonder of being photographed with the tigers' contributes to the reader's understanding of the officer's

- (A) indifference towards hunting
- (B) desire for recognition/fame
- (C) love for tigers
- (D) love for photography

Correct Answer: (B) desire for recognition/fame

Solution:

The correct answer is (B) **desire for recognition/fame**. The phrase "fonder of being photographed with the tigers" highlights that the officer's motivation was not just hunting but also gaining fame and recognition for his achievements.

Quick Tip

Focus on phrases that describe external validation or personal glory, like "being photographed," to identify traits such as the desire for fame.

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

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

(Poets and Pancakes)

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

Solution:

The phrase 'fiery misery' refers to the **discomfort** of the actors. The passage describes the intense heat of incandescent lights and suggests that the process of applying make-up under

such conditions was uncomfortable.

Quick Tip

When interpreting phrases like "fiery misery," focus on the sensory experiences described (e.g., heat, pain, or difficulty) to identify feelings of discomfort or hardship.

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

The description of the make-up room is a/an of the make-up department in Gemini Studios.

criticism

admiration

Correct Answer: criticism

Solution:

The correct answer is **criticism**. The description of the make-up room, particularly the use of "fiery misery" and the discomfort caused by the incandescent lights, presents a negative view of the studio's make-up department.

Quick Tip

When evaluating the tone of a description, look for words that convey discomfort or dissatisfaction, which suggest criticism rather than praise.

(iii) Complete the following suitably:

The historical significance of the make-up room was

Solution:

The historical significance of the make-up room was **its location in a building believed to have been Robert Clive's stables**. This detail connects the make-up room to a historical site, adding an interesting layer to its background.

Quick Tip

When asked about historical significance, consider how the setting or location contributes to the overall context or meaning.

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

Solution:

The reference to 'half a dozen large mirrors' suggests that the make-up room was **crowded and busy**, with multiple people being worked on at once. The number of mirrors implies that the space was designed to accommodate several actors or crew members at the same time.

Quick Tip

Look for numerical references like 'half a dozen' or 'several' to understand the scale or size of a place or situation, especially in crowded environments.

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

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

Correct Answer: (C) They were all incandescent lights, so you can imagine the fiery misery.

Solution:

Option (C) is the best choice because it explicitly describes the discomfort caused by the heat from the incandescent lights, leading to "fiery misery." This indicates a strong sense of physical discomfort.

Quick Tip

Focus on phrases that describe unpleasant sensations, such as heat or pain, to identify the source of discomfort in a passage.

(vi) What was the fate of the head of the make-up department?

Solution:

The head of the make-up department was a Bengali who **became too big for the studio and left**. This suggests that the individual achieved success or recognition but ultimately left the position, possibly due to personal ambition or dissatisfaction.

Quick Tip

Look for phrases like "became too big" to understand a character's rise in status or dissatisfaction with their current role, leading to a departure.

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

(The Interview)

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

Solution:

Umberto's statement reveals that he is a **deep thinker** with a strong interest in ethics and philosophy. His exploration of philosophical concepts is not limited to academic work but

also extends to his novels, reflecting a consistent and integrated approach to his intellectual and creative pursuits.

Quick Tip

Look for the keywords that describe the individual's approach or mindset, such as "philosophical interests" or "ethics," to understand their character.

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

His academic work and children's books both reveal interests.

similar

experimental

Correct Answer: similar

Solution:

The correct answer is **similar**. Both his academic work and children's books reflect his **shared interests** in ethical and philosophical themes, particularly non-violence and peace, showing a consistent pattern in his intellectual pursuits.

Quick Tip

When looking at someone's body of work, identify common themes or ideas that link different types of work together.

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

Solution:

Umberto Eco gives the example of **waiting for someone in an elevator while they are coming up to your place** as an interstice. This is a metaphor for empty spaces or moments in time that are neither here nor there but still meaningful.

Quick Tip

Interstices refer to gaps or pauses in time and space, often overlooked, but they can hold significant meaning in a conversation or experience.

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

- (A) strong
- (B) stingy
- (C) very small
- (D) abundant

Correct Answer: (C) very small

Solution:

The correct answer is (C) **very small**. In the given context, when Umberto Eco talks about the universe becoming "as big as my fist," he is using a metaphor to suggest how tiny the universe would be if all the empty spaces were eliminated.

Quick Tip

Metaphors often use comparisons to create an image in the reader's mind. Here, the phrase helps convey a sense of reduction or smallness.

(v) What secret is Umberto referring to?

Solution:

The secret Umberto is referring to is **the idea that eliminating all the empty spaces from the universe would reduce it to the size of his fist**. This secret reflects his philosophical musings about the nature of space and existence.

Quick Tip

When an individual refers to a "secret," pay attention to the way it challenges conventional thought or offers new insights into familiar concepts.

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

- (A) in empty spaces
- (B) when he is in the university

(C) on his philosophical interest

(D) when he is with children

Correct Answer: (A) in empty spaces

Solution:

The correct answer is (A) **in empty spaces**. Umberto Eco refers to working in "interstices" as engaging with the pauses, gaps, and moments of stillness in life, which offer space for reflection, creation, and philosophical thinking.

Quick Tip

"Interstices" are gaps or pauses. In creative or intellectual work, these spaces often provide room for deeper thought, insights, and new ideas.

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

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

Solution:

In "A Roadside Stand," the poet highlights the mean and selfish nature of city dwellers through their indifference to the poor villagers. The city people view the roadside stand as a mere nuisance, ignoring the villagers' needs, which emphasizes their selfish, self-centered attitudes and lack of empathy for those less fortunate.

Quick Tip

Look for contrasting perspectives in the poem to identify how one group views another, which can highlight the selfish nature of the city dwellers.

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

Solution:

Sophie's family, especially her father, reacted dismissively to her idea of buying a boutique. They saw it as an unrealistic fantasy, showing little belief in her dreams. Her family, particularly her father, thought it was an impractical and whimsical notion, not grounded in

reality.

Quick Tip

Look for reactions from characters that contrast the main character's dreams or aspirations to understand the level of support or discouragement they receive.

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

Solution:

The lack of communication between the Englishman and the people at Gemini Studios was caused by **language barriers** and cultural differences. The Englishman struggled to communicate effectively, leading to misunderstandings and a sense of isolation, as the staff spoke in their native tongue and the Englishman was unable to grasp it.

Quick Tip

Pay attention to the obstacles presented in the text, like language or cultural differences, which can cause barriers in communication.

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

Solution:

Gandhi was warmly received in Motihari. The people gathered in large numbers to listen to him, and his arrival marked a significant moment of unity and support for the freedom movement. His presence brought hope to the locals, who admired his efforts to challenge British rule and improve their living conditions.

Quick Tip

Focus on the crowd's reaction and the atmosphere when a leader or important figure arrives to gauge the level of enthusiasm and support.

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

Solution:

Douglas was determined to overcome his fear of water because the fear had limited his life experiences. After nearly drowning as a child, he became fixated on his fear. He wanted to enjoy swimming and lead a fuller life, which motivated him to face his fear and eventually conquer it.

Quick Tip

Look for personal motivations or past events in the text that drive the character to confront their fears or challenges.

(vi) According to the poet, beauty is everlasting. Explain.

Solution:

In "A Thing of Beauty," the poet suggests that beauty is everlasting because it provides an enduring source of joy and inspiration. Beauty, whether in nature or art, transcends time and continues to uplift the human spirit, offering eternal peace and solace.

Quick Tip

Focus on how the poet connects beauty with timeless qualities, showing how it brings lasting joy and peace to individuals.

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

(i) What makes Tishani Doshi write that she felt as if she was walking into a giant ping-pong ball?

Solution:

Tishani Doshi writes that she felt like walking into a giant ping-pong ball because of the **surreal and isolating environment** she experienced in Antarctica. The vast, icy, and unchanging landscape made her feel enclosed and suspended, as if walking inside an enormous, soft, and hollow ball, detached from the world.

Quick Tip

Metaphors like "giant ping-pong ball" help describe vast or unfamiliar environments by comparing them to objects that evoke certain feelings or experiences.

(ii) Why did the booking clerk refuse to accept the money?

Solution:

The booking clerk refused to accept the money because the protagonist was trying to **buy a ticket for a journey to the third level of the train station**, a place that didn't exist in reality. The clerk, confused by the protagonist's insistence, refused payment as it involved a non-existent transaction.

Quick Tip

Look for events or characters that are out of place or unreal, which often indicate a theme of illusion or fantasy in the story.

(iii) Why did Derry enter Mr. Lamb's garden?

Solution:

Derry entered Mr. Lamb's garden because he was **curious and seeking solace**. He had been feeling alienated due to his facial disfigurement, and Mr. Lamb's garden represented a peaceful, accepting space where he could find comfort away from the harsh judgments of the world.

Quick Tip

Character actions driven by curiosity or a desire for understanding often reveal deeper emotional or psychological needs in the narrative.

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

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

Solution:

In "The Last Lesson," M. Hamel plays a crucial role in Franz's self-realization. Through his final lesson, M. Hamel makes Franz realize the value of learning his mother tongue and the importance of education. He also instills in Franz a sense of responsibility towards his language and culture, which had been neglected due to the imposition of a foreign language. Similarly, in "The Rattrap," Edla serves as a guiding light for the peddler. Through her kindness and hospitality, she gives him the opportunity to change. Her empathy makes him realize the value of human connections and morality, leading him to return the stolen money. Both characters, M. Hamel and Edla, act as catalysts for the self-realization of the protagonists, teaching them important life lessons that shape their future actions.

Quick Tip

Guiding characters often influence the protagonists' perspectives through their actions and teachings, fostering growth and self-awareness.

OR

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

Solution:

In "My Mother at Sixty-six," Kamala Das explores the pain of aging and the emotional conflict faced by the poet as she witnesses her mother's frailty. The poem reflects the universal fear of losing loved ones, especially parents, and the inevitability of death. The poet struggles with the reality of her mother's aging, and the conflict lies in the poet's desire to hold on to her mother's vitality while confronting her decline. Similarly, in "Aunt Jennifer's Tigers," Adrienne Rich presents the pain and conflict experienced by the aunt due to her oppressive marriage. While her tigers are symbols of strength and freedom, Aunt Jennifer's own life is one of submission and restriction, embodying the conflict between her desires and her reality. Both poems vividly capture the internal struggles of their respective characters, who deal with personal pain and the conflict between their desires and reality.

Quick Tip

Themes of pain and conflict in poetry often arise from the tension between personal desires and harsh realities, reflected through symbolic imagery.

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

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

Elaborate.

Solution:

Dr. Sadao, the protagonist of "The Enemy," is portrayed as both a patriot and a compassionate human being. As a doctor, he embodies the qualities of a true patriot, serving his country by performing his duty during wartime. However, when a wounded American soldier is brought to him, Dr. Sadao's compassion overrides his sense of duty. He chooses to save the enemy soldier, despite the risk to his own life and honor, revealing his deep humanity. His actions highlight the conflict between his national loyalty and his innate sense of compassion for all human beings, regardless of their nationality. Dr. Sadao is not blind to the patriotism of his country, but he also values the sanctity of life, demonstrating that true patriotism does not exclude empathy or compassion for others.

Quick Tip

The internal conflict of characters like Dr. Sadao highlights the complexity of patriotism, where loyalty to one's country can coexist with universal compassion.

Or

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

Solution:

"Memories of Childhood" by Zitkala-Sa and Bama explores the authors' experiences as members of marginalized communities. Zitkala-Sa reflects on her childhood in an Indian

reservation, where she faced the conflict of being torn between her native culture and the mainstream, Western culture imposed upon her. She recalls the emotional pain of being stripped of her identity and forced into a new way of life, which symbolized the broader colonial impact. Similarly, Bama's autobiographical account reveals the struggles of growing up in a lower-caste community in India. She reflects on the social discrimination and prejudice she faced but also draws strength from her roots. Both authors highlight the challenges of reconciling personal identity with the expectations of the mainstream culture, illustrating the impact of caste, race, and cultural domination on their lives.

Quick Tip

Personal narratives in literature often shed light on the larger issues of identity, culture, and societal expectations, especially when characters come from marginalized backgrounds.