

Flamingo - Prose + Poetry

We miss a thing when we are in fear of losing it. Substantiate this statement with two examples from 'The Last Lesson', how the people in the story suddenly realised how precious their language was to them.

(The Last Lesson)

Ans. everyone looked sad and regretful about not learning French

M. Hamel talked of importance of French language / brought new copies which looked like little flags

Franz felt sorry for not learning lessons / realized books as old friends

village people sat quietly in the back benches

old Hauser, former Mayor and Former Postmaster were present

old Hauser had tears in his eyes and his voice trembled with emotions

What was the thunderclap the narrator received as M. Hamel began the lesson? (The Last Lesson)

Ans. order from Berlin to teach German- the Last French Lesson, a bolt from the blue

Franz in "The Last Lesson" realises the importance of going to school while Saheb in "Lost Spring" yearns to go to school. Write a paragraph exploring the different perspectives of these two young boys on learning and education.

Ans. Franz takes school for granted, he had a casual approach- got distracted by attraction outside school

does not value what he has - realization comes only when he is deprived of the opportunity

Saheb - deprived of educational opportunity nurtures hope to join a school when author promises has a desperation to attend school

Read the following extracts and answer the questions

For a moment I thought of running away and spending the day out of doors. It was so warm, so bright! The birds were chirping at the edge of the woods; and in the open field back of the sawmill the Prussian soldiers were drilling. It was all much more tempting than the rule for participles, but I had the strength to resist, and hurried off to school.

(i) List two sensory details present in the extract.

Ans. chirping of birds

- drilling sound of Prussian soldiers

- warmth and brightness of the day

(ii) Why is the narrator tempted to spend the day out of doors?

Ans. as the day was warm and bright

- he had not prepared participles

(iii) Complete the sentence appropriately.

I hurried off to school resisting _____.

Ans. the temptation to spend the day outdoors

- the temptation to bunk school

(iv) Why does the narrator want to bunk school ?

(A). He doesn't like the teachers .

(B) He doesn't like the classmates.

(C) He wasn't prepared for the test on participles.

(D) He had forgotten to complete his homework.

Ans. (C) He wasn't prepared for the test on participles.

(v) Which trait of the protagonist I had the strength ?

(A) sincerity

(B) determination

(C) bravery

(D) kindness

Ans. (B) determination

(vi) Which of the following headlines best suggests the central idea of the extract ?

(A) The Drilling of Prussian Soldiers

(B) The Rule of Participles

(C) Strength to Resist

(D) Out of Doors

Ans. (C) Strength to Resist

What were Franz's feeling as he set out for school and why?

Ans. - what – scared/petrified/afraid to go to school

- why – was late for class / hadn't learnt his lesson on participles / was scared of a scolding

When do the residents of Alsace realise how precious their language is to them?

Ans.- when orders came from Berlin to teach only German

- M Hamel announced that it was the last French lesson

Read the following extracts and answer the questions:

They have lived here for more than thirty years without an identity, without permits but with ration cards that get their names on voters lists and enable them to buy grain. Food is more important for survival than identity. If at the end of the day we can feed our families and go to bed without an aching stomach, we would rather live here than in the fields that gave us no grain, say a group of women in tattered saris when I asked them why they left their beautiful land of green fields and rivers. Wherever they find food, they pitch their tents. (Lost Spring)

(i) The rag pickers have been living there for _____ decades.

- (A) three
- (B) four
- (C) two
- (D) five

Ans. (A) three

(ii) Why do these people have ration cards ?

Ans. get their names on voters' lists / enable them to buy grain.

(iii) What do you infer about their lifestyle from the phrase 'pitch their tents'?

Ans. wherever they find food / refugees from Dhaka / poverty stricken / nomads

(iv) In spite of the hardships, they are not willing to go back to their homeland because _____.

Ans. food is more important for survival than identity / no food there

(v) The women had a/an _____ approach towards life.

- (A) idealistic
- (B) passive
- (C) indifferent
- (D) practical

Ans. (D) practical

(vi) What does the term 'go to bed without an aching stomach' indicates?

Ans. not to go hungry / First have food then go to sleep

Read the following extracts and answer the questions

"Children grow up in them, becoming partners in survival. And survival in Seemapuri means rag-picking. Through the years, it has acquired the proportions of a fine art. Garbage to them is gold. It is their daily bread, a roof over their heads, even if it is a leaking roof. But for a child it is even more."(Lost Spring)

(i) Complete the sentence appropriately.

Children become partners in survival suggests that _____.

Ans. They help their parents in earning a livelihood / money

(ii) Rag-picking has acquired the proportion of a fine art means :

- (A) artistic bend of mind is required.
- (B) it has proportionately displaced art.
- (C) it has become a highly skilful activity.

(D) it has discovered pieces of art.

Ans. (C) it has become a highly skilful activity.

(iii) State whether the given statement is True or False with reference to the extract.

The children and their parents have left Dhaka to live in Seemapuri.

(iv) Why does the author say 'survival in Seemapuri Means rag picking'?

Ans. essential means of living / it is their daily bread / only option to live / roof over their heads / means of survival

(v) What does the phrase "For a child it is even more" reveal about the children's dreams ?

Ans. aspiring to get something precious / full of mystery

(vi) Which of the following headlines suggest the central idea of the extract ?

(A) Seemapuri, A Pot of Gold

(B) Rag-picking Different Perspectives

(C) Art in Delhi and in Seemapuri

(D) Saheb-e-Alam in Seemapuri

Ans. (B) Rag-picking - Different Perspectives

Explain the sentences "an army of barefoot boys who appear like the morning birds and disappear at noon."

Ans. group of young boys or rag pickers, appear early morning and disappear in the afternoon

Why is Mukesh's dream compared to a mirage?

Ans. dream- a farfetched possibility

- his current and immediate circumstances made it unachievable

- poverty stricken/ impoverished circumstances

- vicious circle of middlemen

What vicious circle are the bangle-makers trapped in ?

Ans. vicious circle of sahkars, middlemen, policemen, keepers of law, bureaucrats, politicians

- powerful and influential people

Why can the bangle-makers not organise themselves into a cooperative ? (Lost Spring)

Ans. because of the vicious circle of exploitation

- no leader among them

- threat / fear of being hauled up by the police

- mind numbing toil killed all initiatives

Firozabad presents a strange paradox - the beauty of the glass bangles and the misery of the people who make bangles. Discuss.

Ans. - miserable, impoverished, sub-human living conditions

work in glass furnaces with high temperatures, in dingy cells, without air and light

- eyes more adjusted to darkness, lose eyesight
- spirals of bangles in different hues kept in unkempt yards, their own life lacks colour
- bangles – symbolic of auspiciousness yet their lives are drained of joy, reference to Savita
- social stigma suppresses their life

My introduction to the Y.M.C.A. swimming pool revived unpleasant memories and stirred childish fears. But in a little while I gathered confidence. I paddled with my new water wings, watching the other boys and trying to learn by aping them. I did this two or three times on different days. (Deep Water)

(i) Identify the phrase from the given extract that bears evidence to the fact that the narrator's association with 'childish fears' was not a recent one.

Ans. revived unpleasant memories

(ii) How does the writer try to learn it ? Mention any two ways.

Ans. paddled with his new water wings
- watching and aping the other boys

(iii) What did the Y.M.C.A. pool bring back to Douglas ?

- (A) Unpleasant memories
- (B) Memory of a boat
- (C) Meeting a bruiser of a boy
- (D) Memory of his visit to the Yakima River

Ans. (A) Unpleasant memories

(iv) The two emotions of Douglas mentioned in the given extract are _____ and _____.

Ans. childish fears and gained confidence

(v) Why did Douglas ape the other boys ?

Ans. trying to learn to swim

(vi) The writing style of the extract is autobiographical because..... .

Ans. he shares his own experiences / first person

“Father laughed, but there was terror in my heart.”

What does the above statement speak of the father ? (Deep Water)

Ans. sporty father / giving him space to learn
- not instilling fear in his son / friendly
- insensitive to his son's fear at that point of time

What were Douglas's initial thoughts when he was pushed into the pool ?

Ans. Douglas frightened but not out of his wits

- planned to jump up when his feet touched the bottom
- come to surface, lie flat, paddle to the edge of the pool

Why did Douglas decide to go to the YMCA pool to learn swimming?

Ans. Yakima river treacherous/ many drownings

- YMCA pool was safer

What did the peddler say in his defence when it was clear that he was not the person the ironmaster thought him to be ? (The Rattrap)

Ans. made no attempt to hide / cheat

- never pretended to be anything but a poor trader
- had pleaded and obeyed to be allowed to stay in the forge
- was ready to put on his rags and go away

The lesson 'The Rattrap' is both entertaining and philosophical .Do you agree with the statement ? Give reasons. (The Rattrap)

Ans. Yes, it is like a fairy tale with a message

Entertaining –

- humour- calls himself a rat
- takes a comical revenge by imagining others as rats
- comical outburst with the ironmaster

Philosophical-

- calls the entire world a rattrap
- life offers baits

Who was Edla Willmanson ? Why did she visit the forge at night ?

Ans. - who – Ironmaster's daughter

why – to bring father's old comrade home / to persuade captain to come home / father sent her to bring his friend home

"I am thinking of this stranger here," said Edla "He walks and walks the whole year long, and there is probably not a single place in the whole country where he is welcome and can feel at home. Wherever he turns he is chased away. Always he is afraid of being arrested and crossexamined. I should like to have him enjoy a day of peace with us Here just one in the whole year."

(i) Complete the following sentence with the most appropriate option :

Edla wished the Pedlar to have a peaceful day because _____

- the Pedlar had worked for Edla.
- the Pedlar had not been released from jail.
- the Pedlar had been staying at the forge.
- the Pedlar had always been looked with suspicion.

Ans. (d) the peddler had always been looked with suspicion.

(ii) Select the suitable word from the extract to complete analogy.

single : multiple :: abroad : _____

Ans. Home

(iii) In the above extract, Edla comes across as

- (a) conscientious
- (b) pretensions
- (c) compassionate
- (d) selfless

Ans. (c) compassionate

(iv) Based on the above extract, choose the statement which is true.

- (a) relationships are rattraps.
- (b) money is important in the world.
- (c) criminal is not born but made.
- (d) Christmas is a time of charity

Ans. (d) Christmas is a time of charity

(v) In the context of the given extract, which day is referred to in the expression 'just one in the whole year'?

Ans. Christmas

(vi) What does the expression 'he is cross examined' suggest ?

Ans. questioned / interrogated / (any other suitable answer)

Explain the metaphor of the rattrap.

Ans. - world is like a rattrap
- material things act as baits
- human beings feel tempted and get trapped

What made the ironmaster invite the peddler to his house?

Ans. - mistaken identity – mistook him to be his old regimental comrade, Niels Ol of
- fallen upon difficult times
- Christmas time

Their spontaneous demonstration, in thousands, around the courthouse was the beginning of their liberation from fear of the British. The officials felt powerless without Gandhi's cooperation. He helped them regulate the crowd. He was polite and friendly. He was giving them concrete proof that their might, hitherto dreaded and unquestioned, could be challenged by Indians. The

government was baffled. The prosecutor requested the judge to postpone the trial. Apparently, the authorities wished to consult their superiors. (Indigo)

(i) The result of the demonstration was that _____.

Ans. government was baffled / official felt powerless / concrete proof of Indian might

(ii) The participants of the spontaneous demonstration were :

- (A) Gandhi' lawyers
- (B) people of Champaran.
- (C) Indigo landowners.
- (D) Indian soldiers.

Ans. (B) people of Champaran.

(iii) Gandhi cooperated with the British by :

- (A) not going to the court.
- (B) remaining quiet when he was accused.
- (C) helping to manage the mob of people.
- (D) leaving Champaran for Delhi.

Ans. (C) helping to manage the mob of people.

(iv) The statement 'Apparently , the authorities wished to consult their superiors' was indicative of the Britisher's

Ans. bafflement / might, hitherto dreaded and unquestioned could be challenged by Indians / official felt powerless without Gandhi's cooperation

(v) With references to the extracts, the words 'baffled' most nearly means:

- (A) strengthened.
- (B) disgusted.
- (C) frightened.
- (D) confused.

Ans. (D) confused.

(vi) Whose 'might' did this demonstration question?

Ans. might of the British / government / officials

Rajkumar Shukla in 'Indigo' decided to take up the cause of the peasants and raise his voice against injustice. The bangle makers were a stark contrast and accepted their plight of oppression because of tradition and caste. Write a comparative analysis of the two different attitudes towards unjust domination.

Ans. Rajkumar Shukla illiterate but resolute

- went to congress session / begged Gandhi to accompany him to Champaran
- sought help against exploitation of crushed and fear stricken peasants

- raised voice against British landlords who thought themselves above law
- instrumental in bringing out the Champaran movement
- bangle makers of Firozabad caught in the web of poverty and stigma of caste
- accepted bangle making as their destiny
- younger generation echo the lament of the older generation
- failed to organize themselves into cooperatives

This settlement was adopted unanimously by the commission. Gandhi explained that the amount of the refund was less important than the fact that the landlords had been obliged to surrender part of the money and, with it, part of their prestige. Therefore, as far as the peasants were concerned, the planters had behaved as lords above the law. Now the peasant saw that he had rights and defenders. He learned courage. (Indigo)

(i) What was Gandhi's purpose in agreeing to the settlement, even at a lesser amount?

Ans. money not important, surrendering part of their prestige was more important

(ii) Complete the sentence with one word :

The commission agreed by common consent, or in other words, they agreed to the settlement _____.

Ans. unanimously

(iii) Explain the impact on the landlords as a result of the settlement.

Ans. loss of money / loss of prestige / realized they were not above the law

(iv) Based on the content provided in the extract, select the most likely option about the behaviour of the landlords.

- (A) The landlords were sorry for their behaviour.
- (B) The landlords were obstinate and refused Gandhi's suggestion
- (C) The landlords had to refund the money.
- (D) The landlords and the planters became partners in the Indigo plantation.

Ans. (C) The landlords had to refund the money.

(v) What did the peasants realize from the Champaran incident ?

Ans. they too had rights and defenders / they learnt courage

(vi) Complete the sentences appropriately .

The phrase 'Lords above the law' suggest that.....

Ans. they were not under any law / not bound by laws

Why did Gandhi say : Freedom from fear is more important than legal justice for the poor ?
(Indigo)

Ans. encouraged them to be self reliant to overcome the fear of oppression
- empowered the peasants

“Civil disobedience had triumphed for the first time in modern India”.

When and how did it happen?

Ans. When - Gandhi summoned to court for defying order to leave Motihari

How

- spontaneous demonstration by peasants to support Gandhi
- liberated from fear of British officials felt powerless without Gandhi's cooperation - government baffled
- Gandhi's refusal to furnish bail
- judgment postponed
- lawyers made to realize their prime duty to help peasants
- ready to follow Gandhi to prison
- case was dropped

Describe the role of Raj Kumar Shukla in Indigo.

Ans. instrumental in bringing Gandhi to Champaran / initiated

- brought the issue of exploitation of sharecroppers to the notice
- highlighted the injustice of the landlord system
- indirectly contributed to the civil disobedience movement

'Lost Spring' and 'Indigo' bring out how the common man is a victim of exploitation. Explain.

Ans. - both lessons depict how the common man is oppressed due to lack of awareness, education, empowerment and money

- Lost Spring- plight of skilled and unskilled workers / basic needs are neglected / miserable living and working conditions / caught in a vicious circle / oppressed by people in power
- Indigo- plight of sharecroppers / oppressed by British landlords/ forced to pay compensation to be free from the long term contract / huge fees to the lawyers.

What does “ The God That failed' refers to? (Poets and Pancakes)

Ans. low priced paperback student edition to commemorate 50th anniversary of the Russian revolution

- failure of communism
- name of the book written by six eminent writers including Stephen Spender

How was there a great deal of national integration in the make-up department ? (Poets and Pancakes)

Ans. people of different caste and creed

- Bengali, Maharashtrian, Kannadiga, Andhra, Anglo-Burmese, Madras Indian Christians, local tamils

Stephen Spender's visit to the Gemini studios was viewed as an unexplained mystery by the Gemini family. How did Asokamitran solve this mystery years later ? (Poets and Pancakes)

Ans. - absolutely unfamiliar with Stephen Spender's name

- Asokamitran realized the scholar was the co-writer of the book 'The God that failed'
- understood his visit to the Gemini studio, no longer a mystery

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. The whole thing lasted about an hour ; then the poet left and we all dispersed in utter bafflement – What are we doing ? What is an English poet doing in a film studio which makes Tamil films for the simplest sort of people? People whose lives least afforded them the possibility of cultivating a taste for English poetry. The poet looked pretty baffled too, for he must have felt the sheer incongruity of his talk about the thrills and travails of an English poet. His visit remained an unexplained mystery. (Poets and Pancakes)

(i) Choose the correct option :

The reason for the bewilderment of the audience is

- (A) unknown identity of the visitor.
- (B) that the speaker had not been introduced to them.
- (C) the visit of an English poet to a Tamil film studio.
- (D) that they did not understand English.

Ans. (C) the visit of an English poet to a Tamil film studio.

(ii) By 'thrills and travails' the author refers to

- (A) joy and happiness
- (B) interest and aspiration
- (C) excitement and pain
- (D) shocks and surprises

Ans. (C) excitement and pain

(iii) Explain one inference that can be drawn from the line, "He could not have addressed a more dazed and silent audience".

Ans. audience was more dazed because of his accent – what he was saying was incomprehensible

(iv) The failure of the speaker to connect with the audience with reference to the extract is his _____.

Ans. accent / language

(v) What information in the extract reveals the fact that the people have no exposure other than to their own circle ?

Ans. they were not able to afford to develop a taste for English poetry

(vi) State whether the following statement is TRUE or FALSE.

The audience were enthralled by the poet's impressive speech.

Ans. FALSE

Read the following extract and answer the questions

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

(i) How was there national integration long before A.I.R. and Doordarshan in the make-up department ?

(a) The staff consisted of a Bengali, a Maharashtrian, a Dharwar Kannadiga, an Andhra, a Madras Indian Christian, an Anglo-Burmese and Tamils.

(b) They recited slogans of national integration.

(c) The staff studied make-up techniques of various states.

(d) Their clients were from various states.

Ans. (a) The staff consisted of a Bengali, a Maharashtrian, a Dharwar Kannadiga, an Andhra, a Madras Indian Christian, an Anglo-Burmese and Tamils.

(ii) Select a suitable word from the extract to complete the analogy :

front : rear : : ravishing : _____

Ans. hideous

(iii) Select the correct option to fill in the blanks :

The make-up artists could turn _____ looking people into _____ looking men and women.

(a) ordinary; pleasant

(b) ugly; good

(c) pleasant; ugly

(d) monstrous; beautiful

Ans. (c) pleasant; ugly

(iv) the extract most nearly means

(a) brand name

(b) lemon cake

(c) savoury

(d) preservative

Ans. (a) brand name

(v) Based on the above extract, choose the statement that is true for the make-up department.

(a) The make-up artists were welcomed by the actors.

(b) The make-up artists were poorly paid.

(c) The work done by the make-up artists was not appreciated.

(d) The department exhibited national integration.

Ans. (d) The department exhibited national integration.

(vi) Bring out the irony in the above given extract.

Ans. could turn any decent looking person into a hideous monster / overdid makeup to make them presentable in the films

In the chapter 'Poets and Pancakes' the author has used gentle humour to point out human foibles. Pick out instances of this to show how it served to make the extract engaging.

Ans. highlights work of the makeup department, any decent looking person turned into hideous crimson hued monster

- incongruity of the situation – English speaking poets addressing Tamil speaking audience
- forty years old man called an office boy
- office boy's anger directed towards Subbu
- lawyer losing his job by the virtue of being in story department when poets were asked to go home
- description of people (any suitable example)

What according to Umberto Eco is the belief that most journalists and publishers have ? (The Interview)

Ans. believe that people like trash / easy reading and don't like difficult reading experiences
- puzzled by the success of the serious novel 'The Name of the Rose'

What according to Umberto Eco is the belief that most journalists and publishers have ? (The Interview)

Ans. - believe that people like trash / easy reading and don't like difficult reading experiences
- puzzled by the success of the serious novel 'The Name of the Rose'

Did Umberto Eco like to be identified as a novelist ? Give reasons in support of your answer. (The Interview)

Ans. Umberto Eco was bothered by being called a novelist
- considered himself a university professor who writes novels on Sundays
- participated in academic conferences instead of meetings of pen clubs and writers
- identified with the academic community

What do you understand by "interstices" ? How does Umberto Eco utilize his interstices ? (The Interview)

Ans. interstices means a crevice / creek / a gap / empty space
- Umberto Eco uses the word as a space, interval between two different pieces of work / to write
- utilizes interstices to plan and sketch his next project

Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow :

Rudyard Kipling expressed an even more condemnatory attitude towards the interviewer. His wife, Caroline, writes in her diary for 14 October, 1892 that their day was 'wrecked by two reporters from Boston'. She reports her husband as saying to the reporters, "Why do I refuse to be interviewed? Because it is immoral! It is a crime, just as much of a crime as an offence against my person, as an assault, and just as much merits punishment. It is cowardly and vile. No respectable man would ask it, much less give it." Yet Kipling had himself perpetrated such an 'assault' on Mark Twain only a few years before. H.G. Wells in an interview in 1894 referred to the 'interviewing ordeal', but was a fairly frequent interviewee and forty years later found himself interviewing Joseph Stalin. (The Interview)

(i) Kipling viewed interviews with

- (a) compassion.
- (b) condemnation.
- (c) reconciliation.
- (d) gratitude.

Ans. (b) condemnation

(ii) Kipling assaulted _____ with an interview.

- (a) H.G. Wells
- (b) Joseph Stalin
- (c) T.S. Eliot
- (d) Mark Twain

Ans. (d) Mark Twain

(iii) Complete the analogy with a word from the extract :

attack : assault :: committed : _____

Ans. perpetrated

(iv) The word 'wrecked' in the extract most nearly means

- (a) ravaged.
- (b) annihilated.
- (c) killed.
- (d) ruined.

Ans. (d) ruined

(v) Rudyard Kipling uses the phrase 'it is a crime' because he feels it is

- (a) illegal.
- (b) an offence against his person.
- (c) an act of espionage.
- (d) a waste of time.

Ans. (b) an offence against his person

(vi) Kipling violated his own observation on interviewing by _____.

Ans. committing the same assault on Mark Twain / taking an interview

of Mark Twain.

What inference can you draw about Sophie's relationship with her father from the story of 'Going places'?

Ans. Sophie wanted her father's approval / support

- father always showed disdain /disapproval of her stories
- Sophie did not share friendly or loving relationship with father
- father was realistic and practical while Sophie was imaginative and a day dreamer
- father was aggressive and Sophie tried to avoid facing him

Bring out the contrast between Jansie and Sophie in the story ' Going Places'.

Ans. Jansie pragmatic

- practical minded
- knows her limitation
- level headed
- uses reason

Sophie- - day dreamer

- romanticizing her adolescence
- imaginative
- infatuated
- hero worshipping

'Resignation was no sudden thing .' What is the implication of this remark in the context of Sophie's character ? "(Going Places)

Ans. - Sophie lives in a world of fantasy

- dreams of meeting Danny Casey
- feels disappointed on not meeting him
- does not give up and resign to the harsh realities of her life

'Jansie, knowing they were both earmarked for the biscuit factory, became melancholy'.

What inference about Jansie's character is drawn from the above line ? (Going Places)

Ans. - realistic girl- doesn't live in dreams

- sympathizes with Sophie
- cares for her friend
- obeys her family expectations / pragmatic

Fantasising and unrealistic dreams sometimes lead to disappointment and disillusionment. Discuss this with reference to the story 'Going Places'

Ans. - fantasising, living in a world of imagination away from reality

- an act of escapism from ground realities
- unrealistic goals, delusional
- brings in disappointment, depression

- looks for instant success/gratification
- unwilling to put in the required efforts
- impatient
- Sophie's imaginary encounter with Danny Casey
- failure to prove her story

M. Hamel in 'The Last Lesson' and Gandhiji in 'Indigo' were both concerned about the state of education in the face of oppression. Write a speech to be shared with your peers on the importance of education. You may use cues from the two texts. [120-150 Words]

Ans. Good morning, everyone. Today, I would like to highlight the crucial role of education in our lives. In the story 'The Last Lesson', M. Hamel emphasizes the significance of one's mother tongue as a vital tool for maintaining freedom. He explains that language is deeply tied to identity, and when a language is taken away, so is a part of one's culture and independence. He laments that French, the language of the people of Alsace and Lorraine, will no longer be taught due to German annexation. Similarly, in 'Indigo', we witness Gandhiji's efforts to empower the villagers by promoting education. With the help of volunteers, he sets up schools in rural areas, encouraging the peasants to break free from their hardships. Education empowers us to be independent and equips us with the tools to fight oppression and build a better future.

Franz in "The Last Lesson" realizes the importance of going to school while Saheb in "Lost Spring" yearns to go to school. Write a paragraph exploring the different perspectives of these two young boys on learning and education. [120-150 Words]

Ans. Franz and Saheb offer starkly different views on education that reflect their unique circumstances. In 'The Last Lesson', Franz realizes the value of his education too late, when it's already being taken away due to the German occupation. His regret highlights how we often take education for granted until we lose it. On the other hand, Saheb, in 'Lost Spring', sees education as his escape from the hardships of rag-picking. His yearning for schooling is driven by the hope for a brighter future, symbolizing education as a means to change his life. While Franz's view is shaped by loss and missed opportunities, Saheb's desire reflects optimism and the belief that education can transform his circumstances.

Imagine you are Mukund Padmanabhan (The Interview) and you interviewed M. Hamel, after he had finished delivering the last lesson (The Last Lesson).

Write a paragraph on Hamel's views on individual responsibility and nationalism. [120-150 Words]

Ans. In my interview with M. Hamel, he shared his views on the crucial role of individuals in protecting their nation's sovereignty. He strongly believes that each person has the responsibility to defend their culture and language, as these are fundamental to a nation's identity and freedom. When France's territories were taken over by Germany, the imposition of the German language in schools was not

just a political move but an attempt to erase French identity. Hamel emphasized that language is an integral part of nationalism, and the fight to preserve it is essential for national pride and independence. He urges every citizen to remain committed to their mother tongue as it is a vital weapon in the struggle for freedom.

Franz from 'The Last Lesson' and the peddler from 'The Rattrap' demonstrate the importance of learning from one's mistakes and rising up to evolve as a better person.

Write an article based on the two texts on how a man evolves after learning from his mistakes. [120-150 Words]

Ans. Success is often achieved by learning from our mistakes and striving to improve ourselves. In 'The Last Lesson', Franz is initially indifferent to his studies, but when he learns that it's his final lesson, he regrets not valuing education earlier. This moment of realization changes him, and he starts appreciating his teacher and his lessons. Similarly, in 'The Rattrap', the peddler learns a valuable lesson in humanity. Moved by Edla's kindness, he changes his ways, choosing to return the stolen money and take responsibility for his actions. His transformation shows that even after making mistakes, we can grow and evolve into better people by learning from our errors. Both Franz and the peddler teach us that growth and redemption come through self-reflection and making amends.

While M. Hamel talks of language being the key to nationalism. Gandhi tells the court it is a 'conflict of duties'. On the one hand, not to set a bad example as a law breaker, on the other hand, to render the humanitarian and national service. You get inspired and decide to write an article for a youth magazine urging the youth to dedicate themselves to the service, of the nation. You may begin like this,

Youth plays an important role in the progress of the nation [120-150 Words]

Ans. Youth plays a significant role in shaping the future of a nation. It is crucial that young individuals dedicate themselves not only to their personal development but also to the progress of the nation. As M. Hamel emphasized, staying connected to one's native language is essential for preserving freedom and culture. Additionally, as Gandhiji pointed out, there is a conflict of duties: while it is important to respect the law, it is equally vital to serve the nation and its people. The youth must understand their role in upholding both national integrity and personal growth. By working together with a sense of unity and purpose, the youth can ensure the collective advancement of the nation, contributing to its strength and prosperity.

Read the following extracts and answer the questions :

For a moment I thought of running away and spending the day out of doors. It was so warm, so bright! The birds were chirping at the edge of the woods; and in the open field back of the sawmill the Prussian soldiers were drilling. It was all much more tempting than the rule for participles, but I had the strength to resist, and hurried off to school.

(i) List two sensory details present in the extract.

Ans. Warm and bright weather

Birds chirping at the edge of the woods

(ii) Why is the narrator tempted to spend the day out of doors?

Ans. The narrator is tempted to the pleasant weather, the chirping birds, and the sight of Prussian soldiers drilling in the open field.

(iii) Complete the sentence appropriately.

I hurried off to school resisting _____.

Ans. I hurried off to school resisting the temptation to skip the day and enjoy the outdoors.

(iv) Why does the narrator want to bunk school?

- (A) He doesn't like the teachers.
- (B) He doesn't like his classmates.
- (C) He wasn't prepared for the test on participles.
- (D) He had forgotten to complete his homework.

Ans. (C) He wasn't prepared for the test on participles.

(v) Which trait of the protagonist is revealed in the sentence 'I had the strength to resist'?

- (A) sincerity
- (B) determination
- (C) bravery
- (D) kindness

Ans. (B) determination

(vi) Which of the following headlines best suggests the central idea of the extract?

- (A) The Drilling of Prussian Soldiers
- (B) The Rule of Participles
- (C) Strength to Resist
- (D) Out of Doors

Ans. (C) Strength to Resist

Read the following extracts and answer the questions :

I heard M. Hamel say to me, "I won't scold you, little Franz : you must feel bad enough, see how it is ! Everyday we have said to ourselves. Bah! I've plenty of time I'll learn it tomorrow. And now you see where we've come out. Ah, that's the great trouble with Alsace; she puts off learning till tomorrow. Now those fellows out there will have the right to say to you. 'How is it; you pretend to be Frenchmen, and yet you can neither speak nor write your own language?' But, you are not the worst, poor little Franz. We've all a great deal to reproach ourselves with".

(i) 'And now you see where we've come out.' The tone of M. Hamel in the above line is that of:

- (A) kindness
- (B) happiness
- (C) regret
- (D) enthusiasm

Ans. (C) regret

(ii) 'We've all a great deal to reproach ourselves with.'

Select the option, which conveys the meaning of 'reproach' as reflected in the above line.

(A) The player received a reprimand for breach of rules.

(B) The students approached the management with a demand for new canteen.

(c) The clerk received a letter of appreciation for his innovative ideas

(D) She could not find a way to broach the subject with her boss.

Ans. (A) The player received a reprimand for breach of rules.

(iii) State whether the following statement is true or false with reference to the extract.

Hamel endorses the belief that there is plenty of time to learn their language.

Ans. False

(iv) Complete the sentence appropriately.

'You must feel bad enough.' Through these words M. Hamel urges the people _____.

Ans. 'You must feel bad enough.' Through these words M. Hamel urges the people to realize the consequences of their procrastination and neglect of their language.

(v) Identify the line from the text that reinforces the theme of patriotism in the story.

Ans. "How is it; you pretend to be Frenchmen, and yet you can neither speak nor write your own language?"

(vi) She puts off learning till tomorrow. The phrase 'puts off' suggests _____.

Ans. She puts off learning till tomorrow. The phrase "puts off suggests procrastination.

We miss a thing when we are in fear of losing it. Substantiate this statement with two examples from 'The Last Lesson', how the people in the story suddenly realised how precious their language was to them. [40-50 Words]

Ans. In The Last Lesson, the villagers realize how important their language is only when they are told it will no longer be taught. M. Hamel's emotional farewell helps them understand that they took their language for granted until it was too late to save it.

What was more tempting for Franz than the rule for participles? Did he get tempted? [40-50 Words]

Ans. The idea of skipping school and enjoying the beautiful weather was very tempting. The birds were singing, and the field behind the school looked inviting. Despite this, Franz resisted the temptation and decided to go to school instead.

Why were the villagers seated in the back benches? [40-50 Words]

Ans. The villagers sat at the back to show respect to M. Hamel on his last day of teaching. They wanted to honor his dedication to teaching the village children for forty years.

What was the 'thunderclap' the narrator received as Hamel began the lesson?

[40-50 Words]

Ans. The "thunderclap" refers to the shock and realization that this would be the last French lesson Franz would ever have. He had never valued his education, and now he was losing it forever due to the war.

Explain the inference that can be drawn from the line : "Will they make them sing in German, even the pigeons?" [40-50 Words]

Ans. The line suggests that the German authorities were trying to control everything, even the smallest details of life, like how pigeons behave. It symbolizes the extreme dominance the Germans had over the French, forcing them to give up their language and culture.

What were Franz's feelings as he set out for school and why? [40-50 Words]

Ans. Franz felt anxious because he wasn't ready for his lesson on participles, and he feared being scolded. The warm weather, the birds, and the sight of soldiers made him tempted to skip school, but he ultimately decided to go.

Why was M. Hamel dressed in formal clothes in school? [40-50 Words]

Ans. M. Hamel wore his best clothes because it was his last lesson in the village. He wanted to make the moment special, and his green coat, frilled shirt, and silk cap signified the importance of the day and the end of his teaching career in Alsace.

When do the residents of Alsace realise how precious their language is to them? [40-50 Words]

Ans. The people of Alsace realize the value of their language when they are told that French will no longer be taught in schools. M. Hamel explains that their language is a symbol of freedom, and when they lose it, they lose part of their identity.

The last lesson reflects the flaws in human character that led to the sad plight of people in Alsace. Substantiate your answer with evidences from the text. [120-150 Words]

Ans. The Last Lesson reveals how human flaws, like procrastination and neglect of education, led to the tragic situation in Alsace. M. Hamel points out that both students and parents had not taken learning seriously. They thought there would always be time, and now it was too late. The teacher admits his own mistakes too, like letting students skip lessons or sending them to do other work. The villagers, sitting at the back of the classroom, are filled with regret for not valuing their education earlier. They didn't prioritize preserving their language, which made them vulnerable when German was imposed as the language of instruction. Ultimately, the story shows that small failures in valuing education led to a significant cultural and linguistic loss for the people of Alsace.

What was the mood in the classroom when M. Hamel gave his last lesson? [30- 40 words]

Ans. The classroom was unusually quiet as M. Hamel began his last lesson. The students sat silently, deeply focused on his words. Everyone was present, and M. Hamel appeared lost in his own thoughts, reflecting on the gravity of the moment.

What was the importance of the bulletin-board near the town hall? [30-40 words]

Ans. The bulletin board displayed important news, such as updates about battles, the draft, and orders from the German authorities. It was a place where the town received all the troubling news during the war.

Why was the order from Berlin called a thunderclap by Franz? [30-40 words]

Ans. Franz referred to the order as a "thunderclap" because it was a sudden, shocking announcement. It meant he could no longer study French, a language he took for granted until it was too late.

Why did M. Hamel blame the parents for their children's poor performance at school? [30-40 words]

Ans. M. Hamel blamed the parents for making their children work instead of going to school. They sent kids to work on farms and mills to earn extra money, which affected the children's education and performance.

Why did the narrator want to skip school on the day of the last lesson? [30-40 words]

Ans. Franz was afraid to go to school because he wasn't prepared for the lesson on participles, which M. Hamel had assigned. He wanted to skip school and enjoy the outdoors instead of facing the teacher's scolding.

How is the mother tongue important to a person? What does M. Hamel, the teacher say about it? [30-40 words]

Ans. The mother tongue is a person's link to freedom and identity. M. Hamel emphasizes that speaking one's native language keeps a person connected to their roots and helps maintain their independence from oppression.

Why was there a crowd in front of the bulletin-board? [30-40 words]

Ans. A crowd gathered when the bulletin board announced that French regions like Alsace and Lorraine would be under German control. It also stated that German would replace French as the language of instruction in schools.

Why did the elders of the village attend the last lesson? [30-40 words]

Ans. The village elders attended M. Hamel's last lesson to show respect for his 40 years of teaching. They wanted to honor his dedication and express their regret for not valuing education sooner.

Educating children is the responsibility of society. Justify the statement in view of 'The Last Lesson'. [120-150 words]

Ans. Education shapes the future of a nation, making it a societal responsibility. In The Last Lesson, the German authorities aimed to replace French with German in schools after annexing Alsace and Lorraine. They knew that by controlling education, they could sever the connection between children and their French identity. By teaching German, they hoped to align the younger generation with German culture and values, ensuring long-term control. The story

shows how important education is to protect a country's identity and future. If society fails to educate its children properly, it risks losing its culture, language, and independence.

How and why was M. Hamel dressed differently that day? [30 – 40 words]

Ans. M. Hamel wore his best clothes for his final lesson to show respect for the occasion. He wore a green coat, a frilled shirt, and a black silk cap, which he usually reserved for special events.

Why were the old men of the village sitting in the classroom on the last day of the lesson? [30 – 40 words]

Ans. The old men sat in the classroom to honor M. Hamel's 40 years of teaching. They attended his last lesson to show respect for his dedication to the village and to mark the end of an era.

Who did M. Hamel blame for the neglect of learning on the part of boys like Franz? [30 – 40 words]

Ans. M. Hamel blamed the parents for neglecting their children's education, as they sent them to work on farms instead of school. He also acknowledged his own fault for allowing the boys to miss lessons by giving them work or holidays.

Why did the village elders occupy the back benches in the classroom to attend the last lesson delivered by M. Hamel? [30 – 40 words]

Ans. The village elders sat at the back to show respect for M. Hamel's dedication to teaching. They regretted not attending school when they were young and wanted to honor the teacher for his forty years of service.

How did M. Hamel make his last lesson a special one? What did he emphasize in it? [30 – 40 words]

Ans. M. Hamel made his final lesson special by dressing formally and passionately speaking about the importance of the French language. He called French the most beautiful language and urged everyone to protect it as a symbol of freedom.

Everybody during the last lesson was filled with regret. Comment. [120 – 150 words]

Ans. The news from Berlin, which declared that German would replace French in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine, left everyone filled with regret. The villagers, who had neglected their French lessons in favor of work, now realized their mistake. Both the children and the adults had always believed they had time to learn, but now, faced with the loss of their language, they saw how little they knew.

M. Hamel's last lesson made them reflect on their past indifference and appreciate the value of their mother tongue. They attended his final lesson as a tribute to his years of teaching and to honor the language that had been an essential part of their identity.

'The Last Lesson' shows that people suddenly realised how precious their language was to them. Comment. [120 – 150 words]

Ans. The Last Lesson takes place after the Franco-Prussian war when AlsaceLorraine was annexed by Prussia. M. Hamel's final lesson made everyone realize the importance of their language. Franz, who had neglected his French lessons, began to regret not taking them seriously when he heard the news that French would no longer be taught. M. Hamel's passionate speech about the beauty of the French language made everyone realize how precious it was. The villagers, who had ignored their education, felt the loss deeply. Franz, who usually found M. Hamel strict, now understood the significance of his teachings. The phrase "ViveLa France!" written on the blackboard was M. Hamel's final tribute to his country and its language, which they were about to lose forever.

What was unusual in the market and in the classroom on the day of the last lesson? [120 – 150 words]

Ans. On the day of the last lesson, there was an unusual quietness in both the market and the classroom. In the market, a large crowd gathered near the bulletin board, as people were anxious to read the latest war news. Inside the school, everything was unusually silent. The children were not their usual noisy selves, and there was a sense of calm as M. Hamel walked through the room, dressed formally. Franz, who was late for class, was surprised by M. Hamel's gentle and calm demeanor, unlike the usual stern teacher he was used to. The whole village seemed to feel the weight of the moment, realizing that this would be their last French lesson, which made them sit in serious reflection.

How was M. Hamel different in his last lesson? Who did he scold and for what? [120 – 150 words]

Ans. M. Hamel was unusually calm and gentle on his last day of teaching. He didn't scold Franz for being late or for not preparing the lesson on participles, unlike how he usually would. Instead, he spoke thoughtfully about how both the students and the parents had neglected their education. M. Hamel took responsibility for allowing distractions, such as sending students to water the flowers or giving them holidays. He acknowledged that everyone, including himself, had taken their education for granted, assuming that time was always available to learn. Instead of his usual strictness, M. Hamel reflected on the situation with regret, urging the students to cherish their language and education, and showing that he understood the importance of their mother tongue, which would soon be taken away.

'The order from Berlin banning teaching of French stunned everyone. Comment. [120 – 150 words]

Ans. When the order from Berlin came, it stunned everyone, especially Franz. The decision to replace French with German in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine shocked the students and the villagers. Franz, who had never taken his French lessons seriously, suddenly felt the weight of what was happening. On that day, he understood the lesson more than ever before. He realized how little he had learned and felt deep regret. As M. Hamel spoke passionately about the beauty of the French language, Franz's sorrow grew. He even wondered if the pigeons would be forced to speak in German, reflecting how deeply he felt the loss of their language and

culture. This sudden realization made Franz appreciate M. Hamel's teachings and the language that was about to be lost to them.

M. Hamel in 'The Last Lesson' and Gandhiji in 'Indigo' were both concerned about the state of education in the face of oppression. Write a speech to be shared with your peers on the importance of education. You may use cues from the two texts. [120-150 Words]

Ans. Good morning everyone. Today, I want to talk about how important education is. In "The Last Lesson," M. Hamel explains that language is key to freedom, and losing it means losing part of your identity. He talks about how the French language, which was once cherished, will no longer be taught due to the Prussian rule. Similarly, in "Indigo," Gandhiji worked to empower peasants by setting up schools in villages, showing that education is a tool for self-reliance. Education helps people grow, make informed decisions, and achieve true freedom.

While M. Hamel talks of language being the key to nationalism. Gandhi tells the court it is a 'conflict of duties'. On the one hand, not to set a bad example as a law breaker, on the other hand, to render the humanitarian and national service. You get inspired and decide to write an article for a youth magazine urging the youth to dedicate themselves to the service, of the nation. You may begin like this, Youth plays an important role in the progress of the nation [120-150 Words]

Ans. Youth plays an important role in the progress of the nation. It is our responsibility to grow not only for ourselves but for the country's betterment too. One must stay connected to one's language because it's a symbol of freedom. If we want to preserve our nation's independence, we must protect our culture and language. We also have to ensure our actions are lawful and help others progress. As the saying goes, "United we stand, divided we fall," and it's important for every citizen to work together for the nation's success.

Franz in "The Last Lesson" realizes the importance of going to school while Saheb in "Lost Spring" yearns to go to school. Write a paragraph exploring the different perspectives of these two young boys on learning and education. [120-150 Words]

Ans. Franz and Saheb have different views on education. In "The Last Lesson," Franz regrets not valuing education earlier, especially when he realizes it's being taken away due to the German occupation. His regret shows how people often take education for granted. On the other hand, Saheb in "Lost Spring" sees education as a way to escape the hardships of rag-picking. For him, school represents hope and the chance for a better future. Franz's perspective is shaped by loss, while Saheb's is driven by the desire for opportunity and change.

Imagine you are Mukund Padmanabhan (The Interview) and you interviewed M. Hamel, after he had finished delivering the last lesson (The Last Lesson). Write a paragraph on Hamel's views on individual responsibility and nationalism. [120- 150 Words]

Ans. It is an individual's duty to protect their nation's freedom. M. Hamel emphasizes that staying connected to one's mother tongue is key to preserving both personal freedom and national sovereignty. When Germany annexed French districts, it ordered that German replace French in schools, highlighting how language is used to control and enslave people. A country's language is vital for nationalism, acting as a unifying force within its people.

Franz from 'The Last Lesson' and the peddler from 'The Rattrap' demonstrate the importance of learning from one's mistakes and rising up to evolve as a better person.

Write an article based on the two texts on how a man evolves after learning from his mistakes.
[120-150 Words]

Ans. To succeed, we must learn from our mistakes and improve. In "The Last Lesson," Franz, shocked by the news of his final French lesson, gains a newfound appreciation for his studies and teacher. Similarly, in "The Rattrap," the peddler, influenced by Edla's kindness, repents for his past wrongs and returns the stolen money. Both characters learn valuable lessons and transform into better versions of themselves.

Read the following extracts and answer the questions :

They have lived here for more than thirty years without an identity, without permits but with ration cards that get their names on voters' lists and enable them to buy grain. Food is more important for survival than identity. "If at the end of the day we can feed our families and go to bed without an aching stomach, we would rather live here than in the fields that gave us no grain," say a group of women in tattered saris when I asked them why they left their beautiful land of green fields and rivers. Wherever they find food, they pitch their tents.

(i) The ragpickers have been living there for _____ decades.

- (A) three
- (B) four
- (C) two
- (D) five

Ans. (A) three

(ii) Why do these people have ration cards?

Ans. These people have ration cards to get their names on voters' lists and enable them to buy grain.

(iii) What do you infer about their lifestyle from the phrase 'pitch their tents'?

Ans. Their lifestyle is nomadic and transient, as they move frequently in search of food and shelter.

(iv) In spite of the hardships, they are not willing to go back to their homeland because _____.

Ans. They believe that finding food and feeding their families is more important than returning to their fields.

(v) The women had a/an _____ approach towards life.

- (A) idealistic
- (B) passive
- (C) indifferent

(D) practical

Ans. (D) practical

Read the following extracts and answer the questions :

“Children grow up in them, becoming partners in survival. And survival in Seemapuri means rag-picking. Through the years, it has acquired the proportions of a fine art. Garbage to them is gold. It is their daily bread, a roof over their heads, even if it is a leaking roof. But for a child it is even more.”

(i) Complete the sentence appropriately.

Children become partners in survival suggests that _____.

Ans. they are deeply involved in the struggle for basic needs and livelihood, which is a part of their daily lives.

(ii) Rag-picking has acquired the proportion of a fine art means :

(A) artistic bend of mind is required.

(B) it has proportionately displaced art.

(C) it has become a highly skilful activity.

(D) it has discovered pieces of art.

Ans. (C) it has become a highly skilful activity.

(iii) State whether the given statement is True or False with reference to the extract.

The children and their parents have left Dhaka to live in Seemapuri.

Ans. False

(iv) Why does the author say ‘survival in Seemapuri means rag-picking’?

Ans. The author says this because rag-picking is the only means by which the people of Seemapuri can earn their livelihood and survive.

(v) What does the phrase “for a child it is even more” reveal about the children’s dreams?

Ans. It reveals that for children, rag-picking represents not just survival but also a loss of their innocence and dreams, as it becomes their whole world.

(vi) Which of the following headlines suggests the central idea of the extract?

(A) Seemapuri, A Pot of Gold

(B) Rag-picking – Different Perspectives

(C) Art in Delhi and in Seemapuri

(D) Saheb-e-Alam in Seemapuri

Ans. (B) Rag-picking – Different Perspectives

Read the following extracts and answer the questions :

“Why do you do this?” I ask Saheb whom I encounter every morning scrounging for gold in the garbage dumps of my neighbourhood. Saheb left his home long ago. Set amidst the green fields of Dhaka, his home is not even a distant memory. There were many storms that swept away their fields and homes, his mother tells him. That’s why they left, looking for gold in the big city where he now lives.

“I have nothing else to do,” he mutters, looking away.

“Go to school,” I say glibly, realizing immediately how hollow the advice must sound.

“There is no school in my neighbourhood. When they build one, I will go.”

(i) Choose the correct option.

The expression ‘scrounging for gold’ refers to

- (A) searching for gold items.
- (B) looking for something that can fetch money.
- (C) rummaging the garbage.
- (D) digging to find food to eat.

Ans. (B) looking for something that can fetch money.

(ii) The influence of nature in Saheb’s life was that it _____.

- (A) brought prosperity
- (B) yielded food for them
- (C) gave them home
- (D) brought disaster

Ans. (D) brought disaster

(iii) Complete the sentence with an appropriate word.

Saheb’s conversation with the narrator draws _____ of readers towards Saheb.

Ans. Saheb’s conversation with the narrator draws sympathy of readers towards Saheb.

(iv) Explain one inference that can be drawn from the line “..... realizing how hollow the advice must sound”.

Ans. The narrator understands that advising Saheb to go to school is impractical because there are no schools in his neighborhood, and his immediate need is survival.

(v) The expression ‘when they build one, I will go’ indicates Saheb’s _____ to go to school.

Ans. The expression ‘when they build one, I will go’ indicates Saheb’s willingness to go to school.

(vi) State whether the following statement is TRUE or FALSE.

‘... his home is not even a distant dream’ states that Saheb sees his home often in his dream.

Ans. False

Explain the sentence “an army of barefoot boys who appear like the morning birds and disappear at noon.” [40-50 Words]

Ans. The sentence describes the children who come to school early in the morning, much like birds that appear at dawn, and leave by midday, highlighting their transient presence and the daily routine of rag-picking.

Why is Mukesh's dream compared to a mirage?

Ans. Mukesh's aspiration of becoming a motor mechanic is compared to a mirage because it appears far-fetched and out of reach. His impoverished circumstances and the lack of opportunities in Firozabad make his dream seem nearly impossible to achieve.

In spite of the conditions prevailing in Seemapuri, children like Saheb and Mukesh are not devoid of hope. How far do you agree? [40-50 Words]

Ans. I agree with this view. Despite the hardships in Seemapuri, children like Saheb and Mukesh still hold on to hope. Saheb dreams of attending school, playing tennis, and owning a pair of shoes, which reveals his ambition and belief that these wishes could be fulfilled. Similarly, Mukesh dares to dream of becoming a mechanic, defying the tradition of bangle-making in his family.

When I sense a flash of it in Mukesh, I am cheered. How is Mukesh's attitude of life different from that of his family and friends? [40-50 Words]

Ans. Mukesh's perspective on life differs because he aspires to become a car mechanic, while his family and friends have accepted their roles in the bangle-making industry. His determination to break free from poverty and choose a different path brings a sense of optimism and hope.

What vicious circle are the bangle-makers trapped in? [40-50 Words]

Ans. The bangle-makers are caught in a vicious cycle of exploitation by middlemen and money lenders. Any attempt to organise or form cooperatives is met with violence and imprisonment. They lack leadership to guide them out of this situation, and as a result, they are forced to continue their hereditary work, which ensures a life of poverty and deprivation.

Why can the bangle-makers not organise themselves into a cooperative? [40-50 Words]

Ans. The bangle-makers are unable to form a cooperative due to their deep-rooted poverty and exploitation. They lack the necessary education, resources, and unity to challenge the powerful forces, such as middlemen and moneylenders, that continue to oppress them and prevent them from organizing for better conditions.

The description of Seemapuri creates a very dismal picture. Explain. [40-50 Words]

Ans. Seemapuri, a garbage dump on the outskirts of Delhi, presents a grim and hopeless image. The area is far removed from the city's amenities, with no proper infrastructure, drainage, or water supply. Originally a barren land, it is now inhabited by Bangladeshi refugees who live in harsh conditions, further contributing to the dismal state of the place.

Firozabad presents a strange paradox — the beauty of the glass bangles and the misery of the people who make bangles. Discuss. [120-150 Words]

Ans. Firozabad reveals a stark contrast between the delicate beauty of its glass bangles and the grim reality of the artisans who create them. The bangles are admired for their intricate craftsmanship and vibrant colors, but the lives of the bangle-makers are filled with poverty, exploitation, and unsafe working conditions. These workers, including children, toil in poorly lit workshops with minimal pay and face health hazards such as eye damage from toxic fumes. Despite their hard work, they remain trapped in a cycle of debt and oppression, unable to escape their grim reality. This contrast between the beautiful products and the harsh lives of the workers highlights the social and economic inequalities they face, emphasizing the need for reform and better living conditions for these skilled but marginalized workers.

What change occurs in Saheb's life? Is it a change for the better or worse? [30-40 words]

Ans. Saheb's life changes when he gets a steady job at a tea stall, earning 800 rupees a month with meals. While his food situation improves, he loses the freedom he once had and feels burdened by the work, resulting in a sense of helplessness.

How bad were the living conditions in which Mukesh and his family survived? [30-40 words]

Ans. Mukesh and his family lived in extreme poverty. Their house, a cramped, dilapidated shack, was located in narrow lanes filled with garbage. The family of several members shared a single room, and they lived in unhygienic conditions alongside animals.

How was Saheb's life at the tea-stall? [30-40 words]

Ans. Saheb's life at the tea stall was a change from rag-picking. He earned a fixed salary and got meals, but the freedom he enjoyed while working for himself was gone. He was no longer in control of his own life.

For Saheb, how was work at the tea stall different from rag picking? [30-40 words]

Ans. Work at the tea stall differed from rag-picking for Saheb as he no longer had the independence he once enjoyed. He was employed by the stall owner, which meant a regular income and meals, but it took away his sense of freedom.

Mention any two difficulties faced by the bangle sellers of Firozabad. [30-40 words]

Ans. The bangle-makers of Firozabad face several challenges, such as working in unsafe and harmful conditions that damage their health. They are trapped in a cycle of poverty, controlled by moneylenders, politicians, and the police, and fear preventing them from exploring other professions.

Where the peasants are so crushed and fear-stricken, law courts are useless. The real relief for them is to be free from fear (Indigo). The people of Firozabad (Lost Spring) are fear stricken to form a cooperative as there is a vicious circle of middlemen, politicians etc. These exploiters don't allow them to take any initiative. You agree that fear is the worst deterrent factor in one's life.

As a motivational speaker, give a speech advising students how to overcome fear and lead a successful life. Use material from the two texts to support your views.

You may begin like this.

Dear Students,

The emotion of fear will always interfere and interrupt your path to success [120-150 Words]

Ans. Dear Students,

The emotion of fear will always interfere and interrupt your path to success. When someone instils fear in us, he wants to fulfil some unlawful targets which will lead to our exploitation. Thus, we have to remain away from such traps and also be alert to identify potential traps. In the story Lost Spring we see the poor oppressed bangle makers who live in utter poverty and accept it as their fate but are so fear-sticken that they do not form a co-operative due to the fear of the politicians and money lenders. They do not dare to do some other work also because they are trapped by these exploiters. Sometimes, people can blackmail us to get their ransom. In such cases, we must not remain cocooned but we need to discuss the issue with our kin or even raise the matter with our parents and teachers. While being fearless, one must be rational and practical too. One must be able to judge and identify if the fear is real or if someone is instilling the fear only to fulfil his motives. The poor peasants of Champaran get rid of their fear when they realize they are strong in number and have the support of outsiders like Gandhiji as well as the local lawyers. This empowers them and they are able to speak up for their rights.

She gave a little cry of joy. She found a small rattrap, ... (The Rattrap) Saheb-e-Alam received a pair of discarded shoes with a hole in one of them. In spite of this he was very happy. Compare the joy that both Edla and Saheb experience after receiving their respective gifts. [120-150 Words]

Ans. Edla and Saheb experience joy from their gifts, but the sources of their happiness reflect their different circumstances and the deeper meanings behind these gifts.

In "The Rattrap," Edla feels immense joy when she finds the small rattrap left by the peddler, along with the money and a note he had stolen. This gift symbolizes the peddler's change of heart and moral redemption, which is a result of Edla's compassion. Her happiness comes from seeing how her kindness has helped the peddler find a new path in life.

In contrast, Saheb in "Lost Spring" receives a pair of old, worn-out shoes, one of which has a hole in it. Despite their imperfections, Saheb feels great joy because the shoes represent something rare in his life—dignity and a small piece of comfort in his difficult existence. The shoes offer him a brief escape from his harsh reality.

Both Edla and Saheb experience happiness because these simple gifts symbolize hope, change, and the impact of human kindness.

'Lost Spring' and 'Indigo' bring out how the common man is a victim of exploitation. Explain. [120-150 Words]

Ans. It is common knowledge that claims made regarding inheritance or lineage cannot be contested. It is a known fact that we, as human beings, do not possess the capabilities necessary to successfully contest our own destinies.

In the novel "Lost Spring," the families of children like Saheb-e-Alam and Mukesh are caught in an unbreakable cycle of social stigma, which manifests itself in the form of poverty and

exploitation. They are compelled to obey and follow the powerful, and they are unable to organise themselves into cooperative organisations for their own advancement.

In the same manner, the low-income sharecroppers in 'Indigo' were denied their right to legal representation. At each and every turn, they were subjected to harassment at the hands of government personnel, and the police did not listen to their concerns. In many cases, the legal system is ruled by repressive laws that have the effect of dampening the spirit of the common man. They lack the bravery to speak out against what they perceive to be unjust transactions, and their legal battles result in a lack of clarity. Both 'Lost Spring' and 'Indigo' demonstrate how the average man is a victim of exploitation as a result of this.

Read the following extracts and answer the questions :

My introduction to the Y.M.C.A. swimming pool revived unpleasant memories and stirred childish fears. But in a little while I gathered confidence. I paddled with my new water wings, watching the other boys and trying to learn by aping them. I did this two or three times on different days. (Deep Water)

(i) Identify the phrase from the given extract that bears evidence to the fact that the narrator's association with 'childish fears' was not a recent one.

Ans. "Revived unpleasant memories and stirred childish fears."

(ii) How does the writer try to learn it? Mention any two ways.

Ans. The writer tries to learn by paddling with water wings and watching and imitating the other boys.

(iii) What did the Y.M.C.A. pool bring back to Douglas?

- (A) Unpleasant memories
- (B) Memory of a boat
- (C) Meeting a bruiser of a boy
- (D) Memory of his visit to the Yakima River

Ans. (A) Unpleasant memories

(iv) The two emotions of Douglas mentioned in the given extract are _____ and _____.

Ans. confidence and fear

(v) Why did Douglas ape the other boys?

Ans. Douglas aped the other boys to learn how to swim by observing and mimicking their techniques.

(vi) The writing style of the extract is autobiographical because _____

Ans. It recounts the personal experiences and emotions of the narrator, providing a first person perspective on overcoming fear.

Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

The next I remember I was lying on my stomach beside the pool, vomiting. The chap that threw me in was saying, "But I was only fooling." Someone said, "The kid nearly died. Be all right now. Let's carry him to the locker room." Several hours later, I walked home. I was weak and trembling. I shook and cried when I lay on my bed. I couldn't eat that night. For days a haunting fear was in my heart. The slightest exertion upset me, making me wobbly in the knees and sick to my stomach. I never went back to the pool. I feared water. I avoided it whenever I could.

(i) With reference to the extract, Douglas was vomiting because

- (a) he had got severe food poisoning.
- (b) he had just been rescued from nearly drowning in the pool.
- (c) he was frightened when he saw the big man.
- (d) he had gone for a swim on an empty stomach.

Ans. (b) he had just been rescued from nearly drowning in the pool.

(ii) Rewrite the sentence by replacing the underlined phrase with its inference.

For days a haunting fear was in my heart.

Ans. For days a recurring fear was in my heart.

(iii) On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below :

- I. The boy did not know how to swim.
 - II. The boy took a long time to recover from his fear.
- (a) I can be inferred from the extract but II cannot.
 - (b) I cannot be inferred from the extract but II can.
 - (c) I is true but II is false.
 - (d) Both I and II are true.

Ans. (d) Both I and II are true.

(iv) Identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer that the chap threw the boy into the pool just for fun (clue : a phrase)

Ans. But I was only fooling

(v) Complete the sentence with an appropriate explanation as per the extract.

The slightest exertion upset the boy because _____.

Ans. The slightest exertion upset the boy because he had swallowed a lot of water and the fear had caused a lot of exertion.

(vi) Replace the underlined word with its synonym from the extract.

The boy felt unsteady in the knees.

Ans. Wobbly

Read the extracts given below and briefly answer the questions that follow each.

This went on until July. But I was still not satisfied. I was not sure that all the terror had left. So I went to Lake Wentworth in New Hampshire, dived off a dock at Triggs Island, and swam two miles across the lake to Stamp Act Island. I swam the crawl, breast stroke, side stroke, and back stroke. Only once did the terror return. When I was in the middle of the lake, I put my face under and saw nothing but bottomless water. The old sensation returned in miniature.

(i) Name the chapter and its writer.

Ans. Deep Water is the title of the chapter, and William Douglas is the author.

(ii) Why was the writer still not satisfied?

Ans. The writer was nevertheless unsatisfied since he still felt a sliver of worry now and then. He had a near-death experience that left a lasting impression on his psyche. As a result, he was motivated to overcome his phobia, and even after the trainer had completed his training, he was unsatisfied.

(iii) What did 'he' do to satisfy himself?

Ans. To satisfy himself, he did the following:

After the trainer had done training him, he went swimming alone.

He travelled to New Hampshire's Lake Wentworth.

Eventually, he overcame his fear by swimming across Warm Lake.

(iv) Which 'old sensation' did he experience?

Ans. He felt like he was drowning when he had the "old sensation." He went to a California beach with his father when he was a toddler and was pushed down by heavy surf. He was terrified as a result of the encounter. When he was around ten or eleven years old, he was likewise thrown into the YMCA pool by a gang of youngsters. He was terrified because he couldn't get to the surface. He was terrified of water after these two experiences.

"I was frightened, but not yet frightened out of my wits." Says Douglas. Which qualities of the speaker are highlighted in the above statement?

Ans. The statement reflects Douglas's bravery and resolve. Despite feeling fear, he remains calm and composed, showing his inner strength and determination to confront and overcome challenges. He is not paralyzed by fear but chooses to face it.

"Father laughed, but there was terror in my heart." What does the above statement speak of the father?

Ans. The father's laughter indicates that he did not fully understand the gravity of the situation and viewed it lightly. Meanwhile, the son is genuinely frightened, suggesting that the father lacked awareness of his son's fear and was not empathetic toward his emotions.

The persistent determination of both Raj Kumar Shukla in "Indigo" and Douglas in "Deep Water" reflects a strong will to overcome challenges and achieve one's goal. Elaborate with reference to the texts.

Ans. In "Indigo," Raj Kumar Shukla displays unwavering determination by relentlessly pursuing Gandhiji to Champaran, hoping for justice. His persistence plays a significant role in starting the freedom movement in Champaran. Similarly, in "Deep Water," Douglas fights his deep-seated fear of water. His resolve to overcome this fear leads him to hire a swimming instructor and gradually learn how to swim. Both characters exemplify how persistence, even in the face of significant challenges, can lead to personal success and broader impacts—Raj Kumar Shukla in the fight for justice and Douglas in overcoming his fears.

What handicap did Douglas suffer from? How did he overcome that?

Ans. Douglas suffered from a fear of water, which stemmed from a traumatic experience in his childhood. Despite his intense desire to swim, he was paralyzed by fear. To overcome this, he hired a swimming instructor and, through consistent practice and determination, gradually learned to swim, eventually conquering his fear.

Why did Douglas decide to go to the YMCA pool to learn swimming?

Ans. Douglas chose the YMCA pool to learn swimming because it was safe, had trained instructors, and the shallow edges made it an ideal setting to face his fear of water. It offered the right environment for him to overcome his childhood trauma.

What were Douglas's initial thoughts when he was pushed into the pool?

Ans. When Douglas was pushed into the pool, he felt like he was sinking deep into the water. His lungs felt ready to burst, and despite his desperate attempts to rise to the surface, he couldn't. He sank further before realizing the depth of the danger he was in.

Explain Roosevelt's observation, "All we have to fear is fear itself."

Ans. Roosevelt meant that fear is often more paralyzing than the actual threat itself. People tend to create mental barriers, imagining worst-case scenarios. In reality, fear holds us back from confronting the challenges, and once we overcome it, the challenge becomes manageable.

How did William Douglas's fear of water start?

Ans. Douglas's fear of water began when he was a young child, around three or four years old. While at the beach with his father in California, he was knocked over by waves and swept underwater, causing him to develop a deep fear of water.

How did the swimming instructor build a swimmer out of Douglas?

Ans. The swimming instructor was patient and methodical in building Douglas into a swimmer. He used a unique technique, attaching a rope to Douglas's belt and guiding him in the pool with it. This helped him stay calm while learning to move his arms and legs in coordination. Over time, the instructor also taught him how to breathe properly while swimming. The consistent practice helped Douglas gain confidence and gradually overcome his fear, turning him into a proficient swimmer.

How did Douglas develop a fear of water?

Ans. Douglas's fear of water originated when he was very young and had a traumatic experience at the beach, where he was knocked over by waves. Later, during his time at the YMCA pool, another incident occurred when a boy threw him into the deep end of the pool. Douglas struggled to get to the surface and nearly drowned. This terrifying experience deepened his fear of water, and it took him years to confront and conquer it.

How did Douglas develop an aversion to water? How did he overcome his fear of water?

Ans. At the age of three or four, Douglas developed a fear of water when he was knocked down by a wave at the beach with his father. Later, when he was at YMCA, a boy threw him into the deep end of the pool. He sank to the bottom and felt suffocated. After this incident, Douglas avoided water for a long time. However, his strong desire to swim led him to hire a swimming instructor. Through persistence and regular practice, Douglas gradually overcame his fear and learned to swim, eventually becoming confident in the water.

What qualities turned the diffident Douglas into a good swimmer?

Ans. Douglas's determination and hard work were key in transforming him into a skilled swimmer. His commitment to overcoming his fear and his persistence in practicing regularly with the instructor allowed him to gain confidence and eventually master swimming.

How did the instructor turn Douglas into a swimmer?

Ans. The instructor built Douglas's swimming skills step by step. He used a rope to help Douglas gain control and confidence in the water. The instructor taught him how to kick his legs and gradually helped him become more comfortable. Eventually, he allowed Douglas to swim across the pool, fully preparing him to swim on his own.

Why did William Douglas choose Y.M.C.A. pool when he decided to learn to swim?

Ans. William chose the YMCA pool to learn swimming because it was safer than the treacherous Yakima River, which his mother had warned him about. The YMCA pool was ideal for overcoming his fear of water in a controlled environment.

Which two incidents in the life of William Douglas before he was ten years old created an aversion in his mind to water?

Ans. William's fear of water began with two major incidents. First, when he was at the beach with his father, a powerful wave knocked him down and terrified him. Later, at the YMCA pool, a boy threw him into the deep end, causing him to almost drown. Both experiences left a lasting fear of water in him.

Douglas has a near-death experience in his childhood which has a negative as well as a positive outcome. Justify the statement with evidences from the text.

Ans. Douglas's near-death experience had both negative and positive effects. The traumatic experience at the YMCA pool created a deep fear of water, which prevented him from enjoying activities like swimming, fishing, and boating. However, this fear also motivated him to overcome it. His determination to conquer this fear, despite the challenges, helped him develop

strength, perseverance, and courage. Ultimately, this experience led him to become a confident swimmer and more positive in his approach to facing fears.

Childhood fears are deeply entrenched in our mind. Determination, hard work and right training are needed to get rid of them. Comment on the statement in the light of Douglas' efforts to overcome his fear of water.

Ans. Douglas's journey proves that childhood fears can be difficult to overcome but with determination, hard work, and proper training, it's possible to conquer them. After being terrified by water as a child, Douglas's strong desire to swim motivated him to hire an instructor. Despite his fear, he worked hard, practiced regularly, and learned how to swim. His persistence helped him get over his childhood fears and transformed him into a confident swimmer.

Douglas says, "The instructor was finished, but I was not." What did the instructor teach Douglas? How did Douglas finish the task begun by the instructor?

Ans. The instructor taught Douglas how to swim by providing a step-by-step approach, building his confidence and skills gradually. Once Douglas learned to swim, he faced the fear again when swimming in natural waters. However, now he laughed at the fear, realizing it was just in his mind. His newfound courage allowed him to continue swimming confidently, proving that he had truly overcome his fear.

"Well I'll be a manager then – yes, of course – to begin with." (Going Places)

Sophie (Going Places) lives in a world of fantasy. Douglas (Deep Water) faces reality and realises the importance of learning how to swim. Analyse based on the two texts the importance of doing things rather than mere dreaming. Write an article on how the youth of today must inculcate an attitude of doing rather than dreaming.

You may begin –

The youth today must [120-150 Words]

Ans. Today's youth must understand the value of taking action. While planning is important, execution is what truly makes a difference. Sometimes, we overthink, which makes us slow and causes us to miss opportunities. In the story Going Places, Sophie is a dreamer who spends more time fantasizing than acting. She talks about her unrealistic dreams that don't connect with her actual life, creating a world of illusions far from her harsh reality. On the other hand, William Douglas shows a practical approach. He wants to swim in natural waters, so he faces his fear and works towards overcoming it. His determined actions help him achieve his goal. This shows that an action-driven mindset leads to success and achieving goals.

Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

"I am thinking of this stranger here," said Edla "He walks and walks the whole year long, and there is probably not a single place in the whole country where he is welcome and can feel at home. Wherever he turns he is chased away. Always he is afraid of being arrested and cross-examined. I should like to have him enjoy a day of peace with us here-just one in the whole year."

(i) Complete the following sentence with the most appropriate option :

Edla wished the Pedlar to have a peaceful day because _____

- (a) the Pedlar had worked for Edla.
- (b) the Pedlar had not been released from jail.
- (c) the Pedlar had been staying at the forge.
- (d) the Pedlar had always been looked with suspicion.

Ans. (d) the Pedlar had always been looked with suspicion.

(ii) Select the suitable word from the extract to complete analogy. single : multiple :: abroad :

Ans. home

(iii) In the above extract, Edla comes across as

- (a) conscientious
- (b) pretensions
- (c) compassionate
- (d) selfless

Ans. (c) compassionate

(iv) Based on the above extract, choose the statement which is true.

- (a) relationships are rattraps.
- (b) money is important in the world.
- (c) criminal is not born but made.
- (d) christmas is a time of charity

Ans. (c) criminal is not born but made

(v) In the context of the given extract, which day is referred to in the expression 'just one in the whole year'?

Ans. (v) Christmas eve

(vi) What does the expression 'he is cross examined' suggest?

Ans. (vi) The expression 'he is cross examined' suggests that Peddlar and his identity have always been questioned because of suspicion.

Read the extracts given below and briefly answer the questions that follow each.

But just as he laid his head on the ground, he heard a sound – a hard regular thumping. There was no doubt as to what that was. He raised himself. "Those are the hammer strokes from an iron mill", he thought.

(i) Who is he?

Ans. The peddler

(ii) Where was 'he' at that moment?

Ans. in the forest

(iii) Why did he lay his head on the ground?

Ans. he thought his end had come

(iv) Did he feel comfortable on hearing the thumping sound? Why?

Ans. Yes, the sound indicated that there was a mill nearby where he could seek shelter.

What did the peddler say in his defence when it was clear that he was not the person the ironmaster thought him to be? [40-50 Words]

Ans. The peddler explained that he never pretended to be the ironmaster's friend. It was the ironmaster who assumed his identity, and he merely went along with it out of necessity and desperation.

The lesson 'The Rattrap' is both entertaining and philosophical. Do you agree with the statement? Give reasons. [40-50 Words]

Ans. Yes, the lesson is entertaining through its engaging narrative of the peddler's adventures and philosophical in its exploration of themes like redemption, the nature of human kindness, and the transformative power of selflessness.

Who was Edla Williamson? Why did she visit the forge at night? [40-50 Words]

Ans. Edla was the daughter of the owner of Ramos Ironworks, the Ironmaster. She visited the forge on her father's instructions. He wanted her to get the peddler home for Christmas. He had mistaken the peddler to be an old army comrade and wanted to share the Christmas cheer with him.

Explain the metaphor of the rattrap. [40-50 Words]

Ans. The peddler in "The Rattrap" compared the universe to a rattrap. He believed that the world entices people with prosperity, pleasures, and other material goods, just as a rattrap uses bait to entice rats. Once individuals succumb to these temptations, the world ensnares them like a rat in a rattrap.

What made the ironmaster invite the peddler to his house? [40-50 Words]

Ans. The ironmaster invited the peddler to his house because he mistook him for an old regimental comrade. He wanted to offer him shelter and assistance out of a sense of camaraderie and nostalgia.

Why was the peddler hesitant to accompany the ironmaster to the manor house? [40-50 Words]

Ans. The peddler had robbed the old crofter of his thirty crooner and was hiding from the police. He was reluctant in going to the Manor house with the ironmaster because he feared being recognized as the thief and being arrested.

Why did the iron master compare Edla to a parson? [40-50 Words]

Ans. He compares Edla to a parson because she has great power of persuasion just like the parson in a church. When Edla is able to convince her father to allow the stranger remain at the mansion and they share Christmas cheer with him, the father agrees reluctantly and says that Edla is good at persuasion.

Edla is a contrast to her father, the ironmaster. Explain. [120-150 Words]

Ans. In the story, the rattrap, there are various instances which indicate the differences between Edla and her father.

Edla is a mature girl. She realizes their responsibility towards the stranger whom they have got home to share Christmas cheer with. She persuades her father to allow the stranger to stay back till Christmas is over because they had forced him to come over. Her father is impulsive and rash and wants to throw the stranger out when he realizes his mistaken identity but the wise Edla stops him. She remains patient and kind to the stranger whom they had got home. Edla is observant, a look at the stranger's face shows his fear and she realizes that either he has committed a theft or has escaped from the police. However, her father is not able to decipher this.

Why did Edla invite the peddler? [40 Words]

Ans. Edla invited the peddler because she wanted to celebrate Christmas in the true spirit of the festival by having a guest over for Christmas supper. Moreover, she wanted to give the peddler a day of peace.

What made the Peddler accept Edla's invitation? [40 Words]

Ans. By his frightened look, Edla guessed that the peddler had either stolen something or has escaped prison. So she hinted an assurance that he would be free to leave whenever he wanted. Reassured, he accepted the invitation.

What made the peddler think that he had fallen into a trap? [40 Words]

Ans. The peddler thought he had fallen into a trap when he realised that the rattrap had caught him, mirroring his own life's predicament of being trapped by greed and deception.

Explain the metaphor of 'The Rattrap' as explained by the peddler. [40 Words]

Ans. The peddler uses the metaphor of "The Rattrap" to describe life's temptations and traps. Just as a rattrap catches rats, life's deceptions can ensnare people, leading them into moral and financial pitfalls.

What Christmas gift did the peddler give Edla? Write its significance. [40 Words]

OR

What Christmas present did the peddler give Edla? Explain its significance. [40 Words]

Ans. As a Christmas present for Edla Willmansson, the street vendor had left behind a small parcel. Three creased 10 kroner bills and a little rat trap were inside. The letter praised Edla's generosity and friendliness. The gift made her pleased, she thought. The gift represented the peddler's evolution. The kindness of Edla had changed the street vendor into a decent person who had compassion and love for others.

Why did the iron master speak kindly to the peddler and invite him home? [40 Words]

Ans. The ironmaster of the Ramsjé Ironworks spoke kindly to the peddler because he had mistaken him for an old regimental comrade, Captain von Stahle. The ironmaster wanted to help the peddler, not only in regaining his health but also in taking up a new vocation. Moreover, the ironmaster was a lonely fellow who lived with his oldest daughter after the death of his wife and the departure of his sons. As he longed for some company on the Christmas Eve, he invited the peddler to his home.

What miracle did Edla perform in the peddler's life? How? [120 – 150 words]

Ans. Edla transformed the vagabond and gave him a positive outlook towards life. Edla's compassion and selflessness gave the peddler the confidence. He now believed that goodness exists in the world. He wanted to stand up to her expectation of being a Captain and so, returned the stolen money. For the first time, he experienced genuine kindness.

When and how did the peddler realise that he had fallen into a rattrap? How could he get out of it? [120 – 150 words]

Ans. The peddler realised that he must not walk on the public highway with the stolen money in his pocket. He went into the woods. He kept walking without coming to the end of the wood. Then he realised that he had fallen in the rattrap. He had let himself befooled by a bait and had been caught in. In order to come out of the trap he made rattraps of wire and went around selling them. He got material for making them by begging in the big stores or at big farms. Since his business was not quite profitable, he would beg or steal in order to survive.

Franz from 'The Last Lesson' and the peddler from 'The Rattrap' demonstrate the importance of learning from one's mistakes and rising up to evolve as a better person.

Write an article based on the two texts on how a man evolves after learning from his mistakes. [120-150 Words]

Ans. In order to achieve success, it is crucial that we learn from our mistakes and improvise ourselves. In the story 'The Last Lesson' we see the young boy Franz who is shocked to know that it is his last lesson of French and that he will never get a chance to study it. This news transforms him and he develops a liking for studies. He starts admiring his teacher and acknowledges his dedication. That day Franz is able to understand all that is taught in the class. Similarly, we see the character of the peddler in the story 'The Rattrap'. The peddler reacts to Edla's selfless kindness and gets over his acts of petty thievery to be an army captain in the true sense. He does not want her to feel humiliated that she had considered him to be a gentleman. As a mark of acknowledgement of Edla's kindness, the peddler returns the stolen money and requests her to hand it over to the old crofter. Thus, we see that these two characters learnt precious lessons and incorporated them to become better versions of themselves.

She gave a little cry of joy. She found a small rattrap, ... (The Rattrap) Saheb-e-Alam received a pair of discarded shoes with a hole in one of them. In spite of this he was very happy. (Lost Spring)

Compare the joy that both Edla and Saheb experience after receiving their respective gifts.
[120-150 Words]

Ans. Edla and Saheb, though from different backgrounds, experience similar joy from receiving gifts that symbolize kindness and hope. Edla, in "The Rattrap," is overjoyed to find a small rattrap left by the peddler, along with a note and money he had stolen. This gift represents the peddler's transformation and redemption, brought about by Edla's kindness. Her joy stems from witnessing the positive change her compassion has inspired. Saheb, in "Lost Spring," receives a pair of discarded shoes with a hole in one of them. Despite the shoes being imperfect, Saheb's joy is immense because they represent a rare luxury in his impoverished life. The shoes give him a sense of dignity and a small escape from his harsh reality. Both Edla and Saheb find happiness in these simple gifts because they carry deeper meanings of hope, transformation, and the human capacity for kindness.

Read the following extracts and answer the questions :

Their spontaneous demonstration, in thousands, around the courthouse was the beginning of their liberation from fear of the British.

The officials felt powerless without Gandhi's cooperation. He helped them regulate the crowd. He was polite and friendly. He was giving them concrete proof that their might, hitherto dreaded and unquestioned, could be challenged by Indians. The government was baffled. The prosecutor requested the judge to postpone the trial. Apparently, the authorities wished to consult their superiors.

(i) The result of the demonstration was that _____.

Ans. The trial was postponed.

(ii) The participants of the spontaneous demonstration were:

- (A) Gandhi's lawyers
- (B) people of Champaran.
- (C) Indigo landowners.
- (D) Indian soldiers.

Ans. (B) people of Champaran.

(iii) Gandhi cooperated with the British by :

- (A) not going to the court.
- (B) remaining quiet when he was accused.
- (C) helping to manage the mob of people.
- (D) leaving Champaran for Delhi.

Ans. (C) helping to manage the mob of people.

(iv) The statement 'Apparently, the authorities wished to consult their superiors' was indicative of the Britisher's _____.

Ans. uncertainty and need for higher approval.

(v) With reference to the extract, the word 'baffled' most nearly means :

- (A) strengthened.
- (B) disgusted.
- (C) frightened.
- (D) confused.

Ans. (D) confused.

(vi) Whose 'might' did this demonstration question?

Ans. The British authorities' might.

Read the following extracts and answer the questions :

This settlement was adopted unanimously by the commission. Gandhi explained that the amount of the refund was less important than the fact that the landlords had been obliged to surrender part of the money and, with it, part of their prestige. Therefore, as far as the peasants were concerned, the planters had behaved as lords above the law. Now the peasant saw that he had rights and defenders. He learned courage.

(i) What was Gandhi's purpose in agreeing to the settlement, even at a lesser amount?

Ans. Gandhi agreed to the settlement to demonstrate that the landlords were not above the law and to restore the peasants' rights and self-respect.

(ii) Complete the sentence with one word :

The commission agreed by common consent, or in other words, they agreed to the settlement _____.

Ans. unanimously.

(iii) Explain the impact on the landlords as a result of the settlement.

Ans. The agreement compelled the landlords to relinquish some of their wealth and influence, forcing them to recognize the rights of the peasants and diminishing their control.

(iv) Based on the content provided in the extract, select the most likely option about the behaviour of the landlords.

- (A) The landlords were sorry for their behaviour.
- (B) The landlords were obstinate and refused Gandhi's suggestion.
- (C) The landlords had to refund the money.
- (D) The landlords and the planters became partners in the Indigo plantation.

Ans. (C) The landlords had to refund the money.

(v) What did the peasants realize from the Champaran incident?

Ans. The peasants realized that they had rights and defenders and that they could challenge unjust practices and demand fair treatment.

(vi) Complete the sentence appropriately.

The phrase 'lords above the law' suggests that _____.

Ans. the landlords considered themselves superior and not accountable to legal or ethical standards.

Read the following extracts and answer the questions :

They thought he would demand repayment in full of the money which they had illegally and deceitfully extorted from the sharecroppers. He asked only 50 percent. "There he seemed adamant", writes Reverend J.Z. Hodge, a British missionary in Champaran, who observed the entire episode at close range. "Thinking probably that he would not give way, the representatives of the planters offered to refund to the extent of 25 percent, and to his amazement Mr. Gandhi took him at his words thus breaking the deadlock."

(i) Choose the correct option

"Then he seemed adamant," reflects Gandhi's trait of being

- (A) arrogant
- (B) uncompromising
- (C) argumentative
- (D) courageous

Ans. (B) uncompromising

(ii) _____ deceitfully extorted from the sharecroppers.

The status of sharecroppers as inferred from the above line is

- (A) law abiding citizens
- (B) followers of Gandhi
- (C) victims of exploitation
- (D) contract labourers

Ans. (C) victims of exploitation

(iii) Complete the following sentence :

Gandhi surprised them by _____.

Ans. Gandhi surprised them by accepting the 25 percent refund offer instead of insisting on 50 percent.

(iv) The inference that can be drawn from the line "Mr. Gandhi took him at his word" is _____.

Ans. The inference that can be drawn from the line "Mr. Gandhi took him at his word" is Gandhi's willingness to compromise to achieve a solution and break the deadlock.

(v) 'Deadlock' in the last line means _____.

Ans. 'Deadlock' in the last line means a situation where no progress can be made due to disagreement.

(vi) What do we infer about the attitude of planters towards sharecroppers?

Ans. The planters' attitude towards sharecroppers was exploitative and deceitful, as they had been extorting money from them.

Why did Gandhi say : "Freedom from fear is more important than legal justice for the poor"? [40-50 Words]

Ans. Gandhi believed that for the poor to claim their rights and seek justice, they first needed to overcome fear. He emphasized that legal justice alone would be ineffective unless they had the courage to challenge oppression and fight for their rights.

Compose an oral presentation to be shared with your peers on what Gandhi's advice (Indigo) would be to the bangle makers of Firozabad (Lost Spring). [120- 150 Words]

Ans. Gandhi would advise the bangle-makers of Firozabad to unite and take a stand against the corruption of politicians and moneylenders. He would urge them to adopt non-cooperation, just as he did during the struggle for independence, to weaken the system that exploits them. He would emphasize the importance of education as a tool for empowerment, teaching them to rely on themselves rather than external forces. By coming together, they could break free from the cycle of oppression and create a future based on self-reliance. Gandhi's message would focus on collective strength, peaceful resistance, and the importance of asserting their rights with courage and unity.

Describe the role of Raj Kumar Shukla in Indigo. [40-50 Words]

Ans. Raj Kumar Shukla played a pivotal role in the Champaran movement by persistently seeking Gandhi's help for the plight of indigo sharecroppers. His dedication and relentless efforts led to Gandhi's involvement in the movement, sparking the beginning of the struggle for justice for the peasants of Champaran.

Why did Gandhi agree to a settlement of twenty-five percent refund to the peasants? [40-50 Words]

Ans. Gandhi accepted the twenty-five percent refund as a strategic compromise, prioritizing a symbolic victory over the actual amount. By accepting this offer, he aimed to show that the landlords were accountable and that the peasants had rights. This was a crucial step in diminishing the landlords' dominance.

What does Gandhi refer to as 'conflict of duties'? [40-50 Words]

Ans. Gandhi referred to the 'conflict of duties' when he faced the dilemma between adhering to the law and serving the oppressed peasants. He believed his disobedience was justified by a higher moral duty to help the peasants, even though it conflicted with the legal obligation to leave Champaran.

Why is the Champaran episode considered as the beginning of the Indian struggle for independence? [120-150 Words]

Ans. The Champaran episode marked the first major act of civil disobedience led by Gandhi, setting the stage for India's independence struggle. In 1917, Gandhi mobilized peasants against the oppressive indigo plantation system, demonstrating the power of nonviolent resistance. This

movement introduced the principles of Satyagraha and mass non-cooperation, which became central to India's freedom struggle. Gandhi's success in Champaran highlighted the potential of peaceful resistance to challenge British rule, inspiring further uprisings across India. It was a turning point that demonstrated the effectiveness of nonviolent protests, and it laid the foundation for the broader national movement against colonial oppression.

"Civil disobedience had triumphed for the first time in modern India." When and how did it happen? [120-150 Words]

Ans. Civil disobedience triumphed for the first time in modern India during the Champaran movement of 1917. Gandhi's refusal to leave Champaran, despite a court order, sparked a large-scale protest among peasants. They gathered outside the courthouse in support of Gandhi, creating a situation where the authorities could not proceed with their case. The British officials were forced to delay the trial, and eventually, the Lieutenant-Governor dropped the charges against Gandhi. This event marked the first victory for civil disobedience in India, showcasing the power of peaceful defiance against the British regime. It demonstrated the effectiveness of nonviolent resistance and set a precedent for future movements against colonial oppression.

Why did Gandhi chide the lawyers? [40 Words]

Ans. Gandhi criticized the lawyers for charging high fees to the impoverished sharecroppers. He believed that taking legal action did not serve the oppressed peasants and that their true release came not from courts, but from overcoming fear and standing up for their rights.

What conflict of duty was Gandhi involved in? [40 Words]

Ans. Gandhi faced a moral conflict between his duty to uphold the law and his commitment to aiding the distressed peasants. He felt torn between obeying the legal authorities and fulfilling his moral duty to fight for justice on behalf of the farmers.

In the Motihari court, what caused the delay in the trial? [40 Words]

Ans. The delay in the trial at the Motihari court was due to the unavailability of crucial evidence and key witnesses, which hindered the legal process and prevented the case from moving forward.

Why did Gandhi agree to a settlement of 25% refund to the farmers? [40 Words]

Ans. Gandhi valued principles over money. He believed the important victory was not the refund amount but the fact that the British landlords were forced to concede. His goal was to show the peasants that they had rights, and that they need not live in fear.

What would be the impact of synthetic indigo on the prices of natural indigo? [40 Words]

Ans. The arrival of synthetic indigo would reduce the demand for natural indigo, leading to a decline in its price. Synthetic indigo would serve as a cheaper, more accessible alternative, driving down the market for natural indigo.

How did the settlement of 25% refund to the farmers change the plight of the peasants? [40 Words]

Ans. The 25% refund settlement broke the stalemate between the peasants and the landlords, forcing the landlords to relinquish some of their authority and prestige. This act gave the peasants a sense of empowerment, realizing they had rights and support.

Gandhi felt that Indians should not seek a prop in Mr. Andrews, the Englishman. Who was Andrews and why did Gandhi say this? [40 Words]

Ans. Mr. Andrews was an Englishman who supported the Indian cause. Gandhi opposed relying on him for help, as he believed that seeking external support, especially from an Englishman, would imply a lack of self-sufficiency in India's struggle for independence.

How did the Champaran incident bring about a change in the plight of the peasants? [40 Words]

Ans. The Champaran incident ended the oppressive sharecropping system, with peasants regaining control of the land. The British landlords gave up their estates, and the peasants realized they had rights and supporters. This empowered them to challenge their oppression.

'The settlement given to the sharecroppers was symbolic.' Justify why Gandhi thought so. [40 Words]

Ans. Gandhi saw the settlement as symbolic because the real victory lay in the landlords' concession of power. He prioritized the defeat of the landlords' arrogance and the assertion of the peasants' rights, rather than focusing solely on the 25% refund.

Gandhi effectively managed to redress the problems of the indigo sharecroppers with the Lieutenant Governor. What did he achieve? [40 Words]

Ans. Gandhi succeeded in resolving the sharecroppers' issues by ensuring that the landlords relinquished control over the land, returning it to the farmers. This victory boosted the peasants' confidence and proved that they had advocates and rights.

How does the lesson 'Indigo' depict Gandhi's humanitarian approach? [120/150 Words]

Ans. Gandhi's humanitarian approach was evident after the Champaran victory, where he remained in the region to address not just the peasants' economic concerns, but also their social and cultural issues. Recognizing the dire conditions in the villages, he focused on their education and health. Gandhi established primary schools for the children of peasants and enlisted volunteers to teach. He also sought medical assistance, and doctors offered their services to improve the health conditions. Gandhi's efforts reflected his belief in uplifting the marginalized, emphasizing human welfare over mere material gain. He understood that for the peasants to truly thrive, they needed a holistic transformation, which he worked to provide through education, healthcare, and cultural awareness.

Gandhi not only alleviated the economic conditions of the Champaran people but also their social and cultural background. Justify. [120-150 Words]

Ans. Gandhi's dedication to the Champaran people went beyond addressing their economic struggles. While he secured a 25% refund from the British, he soon realized the deep social and

cultural backwardness in the region. Gandhi's efforts to uplift the peasants extended to education, as he established primary schools and encouraged his followers to volunteer as teachers. He recognized the importance of education in empowering the people. Additionally, he focused on health improvements by organizing medical assistance, addressing the poor healthcare conditions. Gandhi's wife, Kasturba, also contributed by teaching sanitary practices to women. These initiatives were part of his broader vision to improve the peasants' quality of life, fostering independence not just economically but socially and culturally. Gandhi's involvement in their day-to-day lives transformed the Champaran people, teaching them self-reliance and dignity.

Where the peasants are so crushed and fear-stricken, law courts are useless. The real relief for them is to be free from fear (Indigo). The people of Firozabad (Lost Spring) are fear stricken to form a cooperative as there is a vicious circle of middlemen, politicians etc. These exploiters don't allow them to take any initiative. You agree that fear is the worst deterrent factor in one's life. As a motivational speaker, give a speech advising students how to overcome fear and lead a successful life. Use material from the two texts to support your views. You may begin like this.

Dear Students,

The emotion of fear will always interfere and interrupt your path to success

[120-150 Words]

Ans. Dear Students,

The emotion of fear will always interfere and interrupt your path to success. Those who instill fear in us often aim to manipulate us for their own selfish gains. It is essential that we recognize these traps and avoid them. In Lost Spring, we observe the helplessness of the poor bangle makers, who, due to fear of politicians and moneylenders, are unable to form a cooperative to improve their lives. They are trapped in a cycle of exploitation. Similarly, in Indigo, the peasants were able to break free from their fear when they realized their collective strength and the support of Gandhiji and local lawyers. Overcoming fear starts with understanding that many times, the fear is not real but imposed for control. Fearless action, along with rational thinking and support from others, can lead to empowerment and success. Let's not let fear dictate our future; let's rise above it and take charge of our destiny.

While M. Hamel talks of language being the key to nationalism. Gandhi tells the court it is a 'conflict of duties'. On the one hand, not to set a bad example as a law breaker, on the other hand, to render the humanitarian and national service. You get inspired and decide to write an article for a youth magazine urging the youth to dedicate themselves to the service, of the nation.

You may begin like this,

Youth plays an important role in the progress of the nation [120-150 Words]

Ans. Youth plays a vital role in shaping the future of a nation. It is their responsibility to contribute to the progress of the nation, alongside their personal development. As M. Hamel in The Last Lesson suggests, language is crucial to preserving our identity and freedom. A nation's growth depends on its people's attachment to their culture and language. At the same time, we must balance our duties and respect the law, as Gandhi emphasized in Indigo. The

conflict of duties requires us to act in a way that fosters national progress while maintaining our own moral compass. If we are united in our efforts, we can achieve much more, contributing to both our personal well-being and the collective prosperity of the nation. Let us dedicate ourselves to the service of our country and its future.

Wars with gas, wars with fire, Victory with no survivors. (Keeping Quiet) Pablo Neruda in the above lines, highlights the futility of war. Gandhi also brought about the change in the plight of the Champaran sharecroppers through civil disobedience and not violence.

Write an article on the importance of peace and the right way to resolve issues. [120-150 Words]

Ans. War has never been a true solution to any problem. It only leads to death, destruction, and suffering. As Pablo Neruda aptly says, "Wars with gas, wars with fire, victory with no survivors," highlighting the futility of violence. Gandhi, in Indigo, chose the path of civil disobedience instead of violence to bring justice to the peasants of Champaran. He believed that non-violent resistance could bring about lasting change without the loss of lives. Similarly, the poet's reflections emphasize that true peace comes from dialogue, understanding, and non-violent action. We must always seek peaceful ways to resolve conflicts, whether in personal disputes or national struggles. War and violence can never build a future; it is only through peace and respect for others that we can create a harmonious world.

M. Hamel in 'The Last Lesson' and Gandhiji in 'Indigo' were both concerned about the state of education in the face of oppression. Write a speech to be shared with your peers on the importance of education. You may use cues from the two texts. [120-150 Words]

Ans. Good morning everyone.

Today, I want to talk about the significance of education in shaping our lives. In The Last Lesson, M. Hamel underscores the importance of preserving one's language as a key to freedom, as language connects us to our roots. He laments the fact that the students will no longer be taught in French, highlighting how education is integral to cultural identity and autonomy. Similarly, in Indigo, Gandhi saw education as crucial for empowering the peasants. He encouraged the establishment of schools in the Champaran villages to uplift the underprivileged. Education is the foundation of empowerment, enabling individuals to break free from ignorance and exploitation. It is essential for our growth and independence, both as individuals and as a nation. Let us value education, for it is the tool that empowers us to create change in our lives and society.

The persistent determination of both Raj Kumar Shukla in "Indigo" and Douglas in "Deep Water" reflects a strong will to overcome challenges and achieve one's goal. Elaborate with reference to the texts. [120-150 Words]

Ans. In both Indigo and Deep Water, we witness the immense power of persistence in overcoming challenges. Raj Kumar Shukla in Indigo demonstrated remarkable determination when he persistently convinced Gandhiji to help the peasants of Champaran. His unwavering belief in Gandhiji's ability to bring change was a pivotal moment in the history of India's freedom struggle. In Deep Water, William Douglas overcame his deep-seated fear of water through sheer determination. His childhood fear was conquered by persistent effort and the belief that

he could overcome it. Both of these stories teach us a vital lesson: with determination, even the most daunting challenges can be overcome. No obstacle is insurmountable if we keep pushing forward with courage and resolve.

'Lost Spring' and 'Indigo' highlight the apathy of society and exploitation by those in power.

Elaborate. [120-150 Words]

Ans. Both Lost Spring and Indigo shed light on the exploitation of vulnerable communities by those in power. In Lost Spring, the ragpickers from Seemapuri are trapped in a cycle of poverty, manipulated by politicians who offer them small benefits in exchange for votes, while ignoring their plight. Similarly, the bangle makers of Firozabad live in miserable conditions, exploited by moneylenders and politicians, unable to break free from their situation. In Indigo, the Champaran peasants face brutal exploitation at the hands of British landlords, who force them to cultivate indigo under harsh conditions. These stories reveal the apathy of society toward the suffering of the poor and the systemic exploitation they face. However, in each story, there is a spark of hope as the oppressed find their voices and fight for their rights. These narratives remind us of the need to address social inequalities and stand up against exploitation.

Read the following extracts and answer the questions :

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. The whole thing lasted about an hour ; then the poet left and we all dispersed in utter bafflement – What are we doing? What is an English poet doing in a film studio which makes Tamil films for the simplest sort of people? People whose lives least afforded them the possibility of cultivating a taste for English poetry. The poet looked pretty baffled too, for he must have felt the sheer incongruity of his talk about the thrills and travails of an English poet. His visit remained an unexplained mystery.

(i) Choose the correct option :

The reason for the bewilderment of the audience is

- (A) unknown identity of the visitor.
- (B) that the speaker had not been introduced to them.
- (C) the visit of an English poet to a Tamil film studio.
- (D) that they did not understand English.

Ans. (C) the visit of an English poet to a Tamil film studio.

(ii) By 'thrills and travails' the author refers to

- (A) joy and happiness
- (B) interest and aspiration
- (C) excitement and pain
- (D) shocks and surprises

Ans. (C) excitement and pain

(iii) Explain one inference that can be drawn from the line, "He could not have addressed a more dazed and silent audience".

Ans. The audience was completely unengaged and bewildered, not understanding the relevance or content of the poet's speech.

(iv) The failure of the speaker to connect with the audience with reference to the extract is his _____.

Ans. The failure of the speaker to connect with the audience with reference to the extract is his unfamiliarity with the audience's background and context.

(v) What information in the extract reveals the fact that the people have no exposure other than to their own circle?

Ans. The audience's bafflement at the poet's talk and their lack of understanding of English poetry indicate their limited exposure beyond their local culture and interests.

(vi) State whether the following statement is TRUE or FALSE.

The audience were enthralled by the poet's impressive speech.

Ans. FALSE

Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow :

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. The whole thing lasted about an hour; then the poet left and we all dispersed in utter bafflement — what are we doing? What is an English poet doing in a film studio which makes Tamil films for the simplest sort of people? People whose lives least afforded them the possibility of cultivating a taste for English poetry? The poet looked pretty baffled too, for he too must have felt the sheer incongruity of his talk about the thrills and travails of an English poet. His visit remained an unexplained mystery.

(i) Choose the appropriate option with reference to the extract. The audience were dazed' because

- (a) they were not accustomed to listening to poetry.
- (b) they had never before seen an Englishman.
- (c) they failed to comprehend what the poet was speaking.
- (d) they were already bored.

Ans. (c) they failed to comprehend what the poet was speaking.

(ii) Complete the sentence with reference to the extract :

The English poet was _____ when he was addressing the dazed audience.

Ans. baffled

(iii) Where did the talk take place?

Choose the correct option.

- (a) The Main Mall
- (b) Story Writing Department
- (c) Film studio
- (d) Subbu's office

Ans. (c) Film studio

(iv) The English poet's visit is an 'unexplained mystery' because _____.

Ans. he was an English poet and the audience which watched Tamil films could not comprehend him.

(v) Complete the analogy with a word from the extract :

noisy : silent : : assembled : _____

Ans. dispersed

(vi) Explain the following phrase with reference to the extract :

The poet felt 'the sheer incongruity of his talk'.

Ans. He could sense that his talk was not being understood by the audience.

Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow :

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

(i) How was there national integration long before A.I.R. and Doordarshan in the make-up department?

- (a) The staff consisted of a Bengali, a Maharashtrian, a Dharwar Kannadiga, an Andhra, a Madras Indian Christian, an Anglo-Burmese and Tamils.
- (b) They recited slogans of national integration.
- (c) The staff studied make-up techniques of various states.
- (d) Their clients were from various states.

Ans. (a) The staff consisted of a Bengali, a Maharashtrian, a Dharwar Kannadiga, an Andhra, a Madras Indian Christian, an Anglo-Burmese and Tamils.

(ii) Select a suitable word from the extract to complete the analogy : front : rear : : ravishing :

Ans. hideous

(iii) Select the correct option to fill in the blanks :

The make-up artists could turn _____ looking people into _____ looking men and women.

- (a) ordinary; pleasant
- (b) ugly; good
- (c) pleasant; ugly
- (d) monstrous; beautiful

Ans. (c) pleasant; ugly

(iv) The word 'pancake' in the extract most nearly means ____.

- (a) brand name
- (b) lemon cake
- (c) savoury
- (d) preservative

Ans. (a) brand name

(v) Based on the above extract, choose the statement that is true for the makeup department.

- (a) The make-up artists were welcomed by the actors.
- (b) The make-up artists were poorly paid.
- (c) The work done by the make-up artists was not appreciated.
- (d) The department exhibited national integration.

Ans. (d) The department exhibited national integration.

(vi) Bring out the irony in the above given extract.

Ans. A make-up artist's job is to make a person lovely, but in this case, the makeup man can convert any decent-looking individual into a terrible crimson-hued monster.

Read the extracts given below and briefly answer the questions that follow each.

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.

(i) Identify the chapter. Who is 'he'?

Ans. The chapter is Poets and Pancakes and 'he' refers to the poet, Stephen Spender.

(ii) What was 'he' in real life?

Ans. A Poet

(iii) How did the audience react to his speech?

Ans. They were confused

(iv) Why was his speech not a success?

Ans. Due to language barrier

What does 'The God That Failed' refer to? [40-50 Words]

Ans. 'The God That Failed' is a collection of six essays written by notable writers such as Andre Gide, Richard Wright, Ignazio Silone, Arthur Koestler, Louis Fischer, and Stephen Spender. In

these essays, each writer recounts their personal journey into Communism and their eventual disillusionment with it.

How was there a great deal of national integration in the make-up department? [40-50 Words]

Ans. The make-up department at the Gemini Studios was composed of individuals from various regions and backgrounds. This diversity led to a spirit of unity and collaboration, fostering a sense of national integration as people from different parts of the country worked together.

Stephen Spender's visit to the Gemini Studios was viewed as an unexplained mystery by the Gemini family. How did Asokamitran solve this mystery years later? [40-50 Words]

Ans. Asokamitran solved the mystery by serendipitously coming across a book review in a periodical that revealed Stephen Spender's identity. He learned that Spender was a renowned poet and editor, explaining his visit to Gemini Studios.

In the chapter 'Poets and Pancakes', the author has used gentle humour to point out human foibles. Pick out instances of this to show how it served to make the extract engaging. [120-150 Words]

Ans. The author uses humor to highlight human quirks without being overly critical. For example, the make-up artists' use of pancakes in a creative manner adds humor to their work. The caricature of Subbu, always offering hasty solutions, adds to the comedic tone. The legal adviser's blunder, which ends an actress's career, is another humorous episode. Additionally, the author's casual remarks on Gandhi, his dislike of communism, and the mysterious Stephen Spender contribute to the light-heartedness of the narrative, making the story more engaging.

What were the positive qualities of Subbu that the writer admired? [30-40 words]

Ans. Subbu was admired for his constant cheerfulness and versatility as an actor. His ability to portray various roles with finesse, his poetic talent, and his love for people made him a beloved figure. He gave new direction to Gemini Studios and infused creativity into filmmaking, making him a highly respected and valued member of the studio.

What caused the lack of communication between the Englishman and the people of Gemini Studio? [30-40 words]

Ans. The primary cause of communication issues was the language barrier. Most of the 600 workers at Gemini Studios spoke Tamil, while the Englishman spoke in English with a peculiar accent. This made it difficult for many employees to understand him, resulting in a breakdown of communication.

How was the make-up room in the Gemini Studios a fine example of national integration? [30-40 words]

Ans. The make-up room at Gemini Studios reflected national integration as it housed a team of people from different cultural backgrounds. A Bengali, a Maharashtrian, a Dharwa Kannadiga, an Andhra, a Madras Indian Christian, an Anglo-Burmese, and local Tamils all worked together

in harmony, showcasing post-independence unity across regions. This collaboration preceded the national integration promoted by organizations like All India Radio and Doordarshan.

What remarkable activities took place in the make-up room of Gemini Studios? [120-150 words]

Ans. The make-up room at Gemini Studios was a lively and busy place, full of activity. It resembled a large salon with massive mirrors and bright incandescent lights that generated intense heat. The make-up artists worked tirelessly to create dramatic transformations, using truckloads of pancake make-up. The chief artist applied make-up to lead actors, while assistants took care of secondary roles and the office boy attended to crowd scenes. The department followed a strict hierarchy, with each member having a specific responsibility, making it an essential and dynamic part of the studio.

Why was Kothamangalam Subbu considered No. 2 in Gemini Studios? [120-150 words]

Ans. Kothamangalam Subbu earned the position of No. 2 in Gemini Studios not because of his brilliance but due to his loyalty and cheerful disposition. His flattery and constant readiness to provide solutions to the studio head, especially in challenging situations, made him indispensable. As a result, other staff members regarded him as second-in-command at the studio.

Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow :

Others, usually celebrities who see themselves as its victims, might despise the interview as an unwarranted intrusion into their lives, or feel that it somehow diminishes them, just as in some primitive cultures it is believed that if one takes a photographic portrait of somebody then one is stealing that person's soul. V.S. Naipaul 'feels that some people are wounded by interviews and lose a part of themselves,' Lewis Carroll, the creator of Alice in Wonderland, was said to have had 'a just horror of the interviewer' and he never consented to be interviewed.

(i) Choose the appropriate option with reference to the given extract :

Most of the celebrities dislike being interviewed because

- (a) it is sheer nonsense.
- (b) nobody reveals his/her inner self.
- (c) it is sheer waste of time.
- (d) it is an unwanted intrusion into their lives.

Ans. (d) it is an unwanted intrusion into their lives.

(ii) Complete the analogy with a word from the extract:

light : darkness : : _____ : refused

Ans. consented

(iii) In primitive cultures being photographed implied

- (a) announcing victory.
- (b) soul has been stolen.
- (c) saving a memory for posterity.

(d) becoming popular.

Ans. (b) soul has been stolen.

(iv) From the given extract, we know that _____ never agreed to be interviewed.

- (a) Lewis Carroll
- (b) V.S. Naipaul
- (c) T.S. Eliot
- (d) Charlie Sheen

Ans. (a) Lewis Carroll

(v) In the given extract, the word 'diminish' most nearly means

- (a) deepens
- (b) disappoints
- (c) lessens
- (d) languishes

Ans. (c) lessens

(vi) In the given extract, the writer indicates that most people _____ interviews.

- (a) celebrated
- (b) read
- (c) gave
- (d) despised

Ans. (d) despised

Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow :

Rudyard Kipling expressed an even more condemnatory attitude towards the interviewer. His wife, Caroline, writes in her diary for 14 October, 1892 that their day was 'wrecked by two reporters from Boston'. She reports her husband as saying to the reporters, "Why do I refuse to be interviewed? Because it is immoral ! It is a crime, just as much of a crime as an offence against my person, as an assault, and just as much merits punishment. It is cowardly and vile. No respectable man would ask it, much less give it." Yet Kipling had himself perpetrated such an 'assault' on Mark Twain only a few years before. H.G. Wells in an interview in 1894 referred to the 'interviewing ordeal', but was a fairly frequent interviewee and forty years later found himself interviewing Joseph Stalin. (The Interview)

(i) Kipling viewed interviews with

- (a) compassion.
- (b) condemnation.
- (c) reconciliation.
- (d) gratitude.

Ans. (b) condemnation.

(ii) Kipling assaulted _____ with an interview.

- (a) H.G. Wells
- (b) Joseph Stalin
- (c) T.S. Eliot
- (d) Mark Twain

Ans. (a) H.G. Wells

(iii) Complete the analogy with a word from the extract :
attack : assault :: committed : _____

Ans. permitted

(iv) The word 'wrecked' in the extract most nearly means

- (a) ravaged.
- (b) annihilated.
- (c) killed.
- (d) ruined.

Ans. (d) ruined.

(v) Rudyard Kipling uses the phrase 'it is a crime' because he feels it is

- (a) illegal.
- (b) an offence against his person.
- (c) an act of espionage.
- (d) a waste of time.

Ans. (b) an offence against his person.

(vi) Kipling violated his own observation on interviewing by _____.

Ans. permitting himself to be interviewed.

What according to Umberto Eco is the belief that most journalists and publishers have? [40-50 Words]

Ans. According to Umberto Eco, most journalists and publishers view their work as a form of creative writing. They perceive themselves as storytellers who shape reality and influence public opinion, crafting narratives that reflect their interpretation of events rather than just reporting facts.

Umberto Eco has a formidable reputation as a novelist after the success of 'The Name of the Rose'. Why does he still have apprehensions of being called a novelist? [40-50 Words]

Ans. Despite the success of 'The Name of the Rose,' Umberto Eco hesitated to be labeled a novelist because he saw his primary identity as an academic. He viewed his writing as a secondary pursuit and felt that only a small portion of readers had engaged with his literary work.

Did Umberto Eco like to be identified as a novelist? Give reasons in support of your answer. [40-50 Words]

Ans. No, Umberto Eco did not wish to be primarily recognized as a novelist. He preferred to be seen as a scholar and semiotician, with his novel writing serving as an extension of his academic work on signs, symbols, and the nature of communication.

What do you understand by "interstices"? How does Umberto Eco utilize his interstices? [40-50 Words]

Ans. "Interstices" refer to small intervals or gaps in one's schedule between more significant tasks. Umberto Eco made the most of these moments by writing or researching during these brief periods, thus ensuring that he remained productive even in his spare time.

What evidence from the text reveals that Rudyard Kipling did not walk the talk? [40-50 Words]

Ans. The evidence showing Kipling did not practice what he preached is that his own son was not allowed to read his works, despite Kipling publicly advocating for children's literature and education. This inconsistency between his public advocacy and private actions highlights his hypocrisy.

What does Umberto Eco mean by the concept of 'Interstices' in our lives? [30-40 words]

Ans. Eco refers to "interstices" as the small, often overlooked pockets of free time in our daily lives, like waiting for someone or a brief pause in work. He uses these moments effectively to write, thus managing his time efficiently.

What are some of the positive views on interviews? [30-40 words]

Ans. Interviews, an essential part of journalism for over 130 years, are valued as a vital means of communication. They serve as an art form and a source of truth, helping us understand "our contemporaries," as Denis Brian puts it.

Why did Rudyard Kipling dislike being interviewed? Give two reasons. [30-40 words]

Ans. Kipling viewed being interviewed as a violation of his personal space, akin to assault. He believed it was an immoral act, deserving of the same punishment as any crime against his personal dignity.

What impressions do you form of Umberto Eco as a scholar and writer on the basis of your study of 'The Interview'? [120-150 words]

Ans. Umberto Eco is a distinguished scholar and novelist, with a deep academic background. Though he gained fame as a novelist, he always saw himself as an academic first. He preferred academic conferences over writers' meetings, emphasizing his commitment to scholarly work. Eco has written extensively in both fiction and nonfiction, including forty scholarly works and five novels. His approach to time management was unique; he used even brief moments, or "interstices," to write, making the most of his available time. He modestly acknowledged that his success with *The Name of the Rose* was largely accidental and attributed it to timing, rather than seeking celebrity. Despite his fame, Eco remained humble, not falling prey to the trappings of celebrity culture. His scholarly pursuits and writings in semiotics are central to his identity, revealing him as someone who blends intellectual rigor with creative expression.

Was Umberto Eco a novelist or an academic scholar? Give a reasoned answer. [120-150 words]

Ans. Umberto Eco was both a novelist and an academic scholar, but he identified himself primarily as a scholar. While he achieved significant success as a novelist, writing novels was a secondary pursuit for him, something he did as a hobby, particularly on Sundays. His academic career and scholarly work in semiotics were central to his identity, and he dedicated much of his time to academic conferences rather than writers' meetings or Pen clubs. Although his novel *The Name of the Rose* brought him widespread fame, Eco always downplayed his novelist status, seeing it as a fortunate occurrence rather than a deliberate career choice. He valued his academic work more and saw writing as a way to explore his intellectual interests. Therefore, Eco saw himself first and foremost as a scholar, with novel writing happening by chance and not a primary focus.

Umberto Eco (The Interview) has a talk with Danny Casey from the story "Going Places". Danny, being a football prodigy, feels his popularity may affect his game as he can't devote much time to it. What advice will Umberto Eco give Danny about time management? Write a paragraph on the interaction between the two and the advice given by Umberto Eco. [120-150 Words]

Ans. In their conversation, Umberto Eco would likely advise Danny Casey on how crucial it is to manage his time wisely in order to strike a balance between his athletic career and personal life. Given Eco's experience as a writer and academic, he would suggest that Danny organize his day with a clear plan, designating time for practice, matches, and public events, while also reserving space for relaxation and personal activities. Eco would emphasize the need to prioritize tasks, delegate when possible, and establish boundaries to prevent public obligations from overtaking his time. Effective time management would allow Danny to maintain peak performance on the field, while also embracing his fame without becoming overwhelmed. Eco's counsel would focus on achieving a harmonious balance that lets Danny thrive both as an athlete and as a celebrity, stressing the importance of discipline and thoughtful planning for long-term success.

Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

"Or an actress. Now there's real money in that. Yes, and I could may be have the boutique on the side. Actresses don't work full time, do they? Anyway, that or a fashion designer. You know—something a bit sophisticated". And she turned in through the open street door leaving Jansie standing in the rain. "If I ever come into money I'll buy a boutique". "Huh, if you ever come into money ... if you ever come into money you'll buy us a blessed decent house to live in, thank you very much."

Sophie's father was scooping shepherd's pie into his mouth as hard as he could go, his plump face still grimy and sweat—marked from the day. "She thinks money grows on trees, don't she Dad? Said little Derek, hanging on the back of his father's chair. Their mother sighed.

- (i) Sophie wants to become an actress to
(a) become famous

- (b) to earn money
- (c) to support her father
- (d) to compete with Jansie

Ans. (b) to earn money

(ii) Jansie wanted Sophie to spend her money on

- (a) her marriage
- (b) her career
- (c) to open a boutique
- (d) buying a house

Ans. (d) buying a house

(iii) Sophie is daydreaming about _____.

Ans. becoming an actress or a fashion designer.

(iv) The phrase 'money grows on trees' indicates that Sophie _____.

Ans. is over ambitious

(v) Sophie's mother's sigh is one of

- (a) regret
- (b) delight
- (c) relief
- (d) helplessness

Ans. (d) helplessness

(vi) From the extract Jansie comes across as a _____ person.

- (a) practical
- (b) dominating
- (c) immature
- (d) starstruck

Ans. (a) practical

Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow each of them:

There was a wooden bench beneath a solitary elm where lovers sometimes came. She sat down to wait. It was the perfect place, she had always thought so, for a meeting of this kind.

(i) Who is 'she'?

Ans. Sophie

(ii) Who was she waiting for?

Ans. Danny Casey

(iii) Why did lovers like this place for their meetings?

Ans. It was solitary

(iv) What was special about this meeting?

Ans. It was a romantic date

Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow each of them:

Here I sit, she said to herself, wishing Danny would come, wishing he would come and sensing the time passing, I feel the pangs of doubt stirring inside me. I watch for him but still there is no sign of him. I remember Geoff saying he would never come, and how none of them believed me when I told them.

(i) Who is 'she'? Who is 'he'?

Ans. Sophie and Danny Casey

(ii) Why did 'she' doubt that 'he' would not come?

Ans. He was a famous footballer and would be occupied somewhere else.

(iii) When did 'she' realise that 'he' would not come?

Ans. After some time passed, she realised that he would not come.

(iv) Which word in the passage is opposite in meaning to the word 'certainty'?

Ans. doubt

What inference can you draw about Sophie's relationship with her father from the story 'Going Places'? [40-50 Words]

Ans. Sophie's relationship with her father is distant and lacks understanding. He dismisses her dreams as impractical and unreal, which shows a disconnect between her imaginative aspirations and his pragmatic outlook on life.

Does Sophie's father believe her story of meeting Danny Casey? Discuss. [40-50Words]

Ans. No, Sophie's father does not believe her story of meeting Danny Casey. He dismisses it as another one of Sophie's fanciful tales and warns that such fantasies could lead her into trouble in the future.

Bring out the contrast between Jansie and Sophie in the story 'Going Places'. [40-50 Words]

Ans. Jansie is down-to-earth and realistic, focused on the future and societal expectations, while Sophie is a dreamer, indulging in fantasies and unrealizable ambitions, which creates a contrast in their approach to life and their understanding of their circumstances.

'Resignation was no sudden thing.' What is the implication of this remark in the context of Sophie's character? [40-50 Words]

Ans. The remark implies that Sophie's acceptance of reality was a slow and reluctant process. Her dreams of a glamorous life gradually faded as she came to terms with her ordinary existence, indicating an inner struggle between her hopes and the limitations of her reality.

'Soaf, you really should be sensible!' What does Jansie's advice to her friend Sophie reveal about their friendship? [40-50 Words]

Ans. Jansie's advice shows her practical nature and genuine concern for Sophie. While Sophie is carried away by unrealistic dreams, Jansie tries to guide her toward more sensible thinking, indicating that their friendship is built on care, responsibility, and concern for each other's well-being.

'Jansie, knowing they were both earmarked for the biscuit factory, became melancholy.' What inference about Jansie's character is drawn from the above line? [40-50 Words]

Ans. Jansie is practical and accepts her fate without illusions. Unlike Sophie, who dreams of a different life, Jansie is resigned to the reality of working at the biscuit factory, showing a more grounded and realistic view of their future.

Why did Sophie wish to delve more deeply in 'her brother's affections'? [40-50 Words]

Ans. Sophie wanted to understand her brother Geoff's emotions because he was the only one who listened to her wild tales and kept them to himself. She found his life intriguing and imagined herself joining him, thinking everyone would warmly welcome her presence.

Why did Sophie long for her brother's affection? [40-50 Words]

Ans. Sophie found Geoff enigmatic because he remained silent about his personal life, leaving many aspects of his world a mystery. She yearned to uncover these unknowns and imagined herself sharing in his experiences, wanting to be a part of the life he kept to himself.

Fantatising and unrealistic dreams sometimes lead to disappointment and disillusionment. Discuss this with reference to the story 'Going Places'. [120-150 Words]

Ans. In "Going Places," Sophie is portrayed as a dreamer, imagining a life of glamour and success that is far beyond her reality. She fantasizes about becoming a fashion designer, an actress, or a manager, even though her family struggles financially and she has few opportunities. Sophie's unrealistic aspirations cause her to fabricate a story about meeting her idol, the footballer Danny Casey, which she shares with her friend and brother. However, these dreams only lead to disappointment when reality sets in. Sophie's fantasies collide with the harsh truth of her situation, leaving her disillusioned and heartbroken. Her tendency to escape into a world of imagination prevents her from appreciating her present life or making practical plans for her future. The story underscores the dangers of indulging in unrealistic fantasies and the need to stay grounded in reality to avoid the pain of unattainable dreams.

"Well I'll be a manager then – yes, of course – to begin with." (Going Places)

Sophie (Going Places) lives in a world of fantasy. Douglas (Deep Water) faces reality and realises the importance of learning how to swim. Analyse based on the two texts the importance

of doing things rather than mere dreaming. Write an article on how the youth of today must inculcate an attitude of doing rather than dreaming.

You may begin –

The youth today must [120-150 Words]

Ans. The youth today must understand that dreams and aspirations alone are not enough to achieve success. While planning is crucial, action is what brings dreams to life. Often, overthinking can paralyze us, causing us to miss opportunities for growth. In the story *Going Places*, Sophie is a character who lives in a world of fantasy, constantly imagining scenarios that never materialize. She dreams of an idealized life, yet fails to take the necessary steps to make her dreams a reality. On the other hand, William Douglas from *Deep Water* demonstrates the power of action. Overcoming his fear of swimming, he confronts his limitations and takes practical steps to achieve his goal. This contrast teaches us the importance of being proactive and facing challenges head-on. The youth today must learn to act decisively, as only through real efforts can they turn their dreams into tangible accomplishments.

After reading ‘Aunt Jennifer’s Tiger’ and ‘Going Places’, you realise that Aunt Jennifer and Sophie’s mother have been subdued by their respective husbands. As a social activist you have to write an article to a newspaper on the need to empower women.

You may begin like this.

Empowerment of women is a very essential social reform. It needs to be accelerated for any nation to progress [120-150 Words]

Ans. Empowering women is a crucial social reform that must be prioritized for any nation to thrive. The stories of Aunt Jennifer and Sophie’s mother reflect the suppression many women face in society, bound by traditional norms and the dominance of their husbands. This underscores the immediate need for women’s empowerment to help them break free from these limitations. Empowering women involves providing access to education, economic freedom, and equal opportunities. It requires a shift in societal attitudes to eliminate gender biases and promote equality. When women are given the tools to assert their rights and pursue their ambitions, they can make valuable contributions to societal progress and economic growth. It is only through such empowerment that women can realize their full potential, driving positive change in the world.

Umberto Eco (The Interview) has a talk with Danny Casey from the story “Going Places”. Danny, being a football prodigy, feels his popularity may affect his game as he can’t devote much time to it. What advice will Umberto Eco give Danny about time management? Write a paragraph on the interaction between the two and the advice given by Umberto Eco. [120-150 Words]

Ans. In their conversation, Umberto Eco would likely advise Danny Casey on the significance of effective time management to strike a balance between his professional responsibilities and personal life. Eco, who is renowned for his academic and literary achievements, would recommend Danny to plan his time wisely by allocating specific periods for practice, matches, and media appearances, while also carving out moments for relaxation and personal activities. Eco would stress the importance of setting clear priorities, delegating tasks when necessary, and drawing boundaries to protect his time from being overtaken by public demands. Through

thoughtful scheduling, Danny could maintain his focus and performance on the field while also managing the pressures of fame. Eco's guidance would revolve around finding a harmonious balance, allowing Danny to succeed both as a footballer and as a public figure, with an emphasis on discipline and careful planning for long-term success.

Read the following extracts and answer the questions :

I saw my mother, beside me, doze, open mouthed, her face ashen like that of a corpse and realized with pain that she was as old as she looked but soon put that thought away, and looked out at Young Trees sprinting, the merry children spilling out of their homes.

- (i) The phrase 'ashen like that of a corpse' gives the impression that the mother is
- (A)frustrated
 - (B)depressed
 - (C)dead
 - (D)weak

Ans. (D) weak

- (ii) State whether the following statement is True or False, with reference to the extract.

"The mother was suffering from some fatal disease."

Ans. False

- (iii)Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract?

- (A)Life is short and one must enjoy it
- (B)Ageing and Mortality
- (C)Sleeping and Playing
- (D)Art of Parenting

Ans. (B) Ageing and Mortality

- (iv) Pick the option in which the word 'spilling' is used in the same sense as in the extract.

- (A)Rahul was responsible for spilling the beans by telling everyone the secret.
- (B)He opened the bag, spilling all its contents on the table.
- (C)Try to keep that crowd from spilling onto the main street.
- (D)The cat spilled all the milk.

Ans. (C) Try to keep that crowd from spilling onto the main street.

- (v) The phrases 'Young Trees sprinting' and 'merry children spilling' represent :

- (A)Youth
- (B)Old age
- (C)Disease

(D)Travel

Ans. (A) Youth

Read the following extracts and answer the questions :

... but soon put that thought away, and looked out at
Young

Trees sprinting, the merry children spilling out of their homes, but after the airport's security check, standing a few yards away, I looked again at her, wan, pale as a late winter's moon and felt that old familiar ache, my childhood's fear,

(i) Select the correct option.

The impact of 'merry children' on poet's mind _____.

(A)caused anxiety

(B)created a sense of longing

(C)brought comfort

(D)reminded her of her own childhood

Ans. (C) brought comfort

(ii) The tone of the poet expressed in the above lines is

(A)sadness and helplessness

(B)excitement and eagerness

(C)appreciation and gratitude

(D)anger and anxiety

Ans. (A) sadness and helplessness

(iii)The words 'wan, pale' indicate the mother's _____.

Ans. The words 'wan, pale' indicate the mother's frail health and aging.

(iv)Complete the following sentence appropriately.

The poet looked at her mother again to _____.

Ans. The poet looked at her mother again to capture and remember her frail image, fearing it might be the last time she sees her.

Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow :

Driving from my parent's home to Cochin last Friday morning, I saw my mother, beside me, doze, open mouthed, her face ashen like that of a corpse, and realised with pain that she was as old

as she looked but soon put
that thought away, and
looked out at Young
Trees sprinting, the merry children spilling out
of their homes

(i) The poet's mother looks

I exhausted

II healthy

III rejuvenated

IV pale

V relaxed

Choose the most appropriate option :

(a) Only V

(b) I, III and V

(c) I, II and IV

(d) I and IV

Ans. (d) I and IV

(ii) The poet looks out of the car because _____.

Ans. she wants to put the thought of her old, pale mother away

(iii) Choose the option that displays the same poetic device as 'her face ashen like that of a corpse'.

(a) stars winked in the midnight sky

(b) a bitter sweet experience

(c) as cold as ice

(d) grey geese in the green field

Ans. (c) as cold as ice

(iv) The phrase 'she realized with pain' indicates the poet's

(a) anxiety of missing the flight.

(b) fear of losing her mother.

(c) fear of illness.

(d) anxiety of taking her mother on the flight.

Ans. (b) fear of losing her mother.

(v) What does the phrase 'sprinting trees' symbolize?

(a) youthfulness and forgetfulness

(b) vitality and youthfulness

(c) energy and casualness

(d) pallor and exuberance

Ans. (b) vitality and youthfulness

It is said that the 'Face is a mirror of one's emotions.' Why did the poet 'smile and smile'? [40-50 Words]

Ans. The poet smiled to conceal her deep sorrow. Although she was feeling the pain of her mother's impending departure, she masked it with a smile, hiding her true emotions of sadness and separation.

"See you soon Amma." How are these words contrary to the speaker's emotions? [40-50 Words]

Ans. The words "See you soon Amma" contrast with the speaker's emotions because, though she says them cheerfully, she is actually filled with anxiety and sadness about her mother's aging. The farewell is a facade for her underlying fear of losing her.

What is the significance of the word 'but' in 'but all I said was see you soon Amma? [40-50 Words]

Ans. The word "but" in "but all I said was see you soon, Amma" highlights the difference between the speaker's true emotions and the words she expressed. It shows that despite her inner turmoil, she only managed to utter a simple, superficial farewell, masking her real feelings.

What are the feelings of the poet about her aged mother with reference to the poem 'My Mother at Sixty Six'? [40-50 Words]

Ans. In "My Mother at Sixty-Six," the poet expresses deep love and concern for her aging mother. Watching her mother's frailty while sleeping in the car, the poet feels overwhelmed with protectiveness and tenderness, realizing the inevitability of aging and the impending loss.

What sort of pain does the poet feel in 'My Mother at Sixty-six'? [30 – 40 words]

Ans. The poet feels the emotional pain of anticipating her mother's eventual loss and the separation that will follow.

In the last line of the poem, 'My Mother at Sixty-six', the word 'smile' is repeated three times. What is its significance? [30 – 40 words]

Ans. The repetition of "smile" in the last line signifies the poet's attempt to hide her inner sorrow. It reflects her effort to conceal her true emotions behind a forced smile, masking her fear and sadness.

What is the poet's childhood fear? [30 – 40 words]

Ans. The poet's childhood fear, as expressed in "My Mother at Sixty-Six," is the fear of losing her mother. This fear resurfaces when she notices the signs of aging in her mother, making her realize that her worst fear might soon come true as time passes.

Create a comprehensive comparison of the themes present in 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' and 'My Mother at Sixty-six'. Specifically discuss the different ways each poem addresses the concept of struggle and resilience. [120-150 Words]

Ans. In both Aunt Jennifer's Tigers and My Mother at Sixty-six, the theme of struggle and resilience is explored, though in contrasting contexts. In Aunt Jennifer's Tigers, the poem delves

into the struggles of a woman trapped in a repressive marriage. The tigers in the embroidery represent Aunt Jennifer's longing for freedom, as they move with grace and boldness, contrasting with her own fear. Her trembling hands and the heavy weight of the wedding ring symbolize the oppressive burden of marital life. On the other hand, My Mother at Sixty-six portrays the struggle of a daughter facing the inevitable aging and decline of her mother. The poem reflects the emotional turmoil of fearing loss, yet the daughter's resilience is seen in her ability to smile and depart, despite the heaviness in her heart. Both poems reveal internal struggles and demonstrate resilience through their characters' silent strength.

Write a paragraph focusing on how the poems 'Keeping quiet' and 'My Mother at Sixty-six' illuminate different facets of human introspection and the significance of quiet reflection in understanding oneself. [120-150 Words]

Ans. Both Keeping Quiet and My Mother at Sixty-six emphasize introspection and the importance of quiet reflection. In Keeping Quiet, Neruda encourages people to pause, stop their busy lives, and reflect on their actions. This moment of stillness is a call for self-awareness and better decision-making. In My Mother at Sixty-six, the poet contemplates the inevitable aging and death of her mother. Despite the emotional turmoil, she hides her feelings behind a smile, quietly reflecting on her mother's condition. Both poems highlight the power of silence and reflection as a means to understand oneself and the world. Through these moments of introspection, the characters are able to come to terms with their feelings and make decisions that guide them forward, underscoring the value of quiet thought in navigating life's challenges.

How does the use of vivid imagery by Adrienne Rich in "Aunt Jennifer's Tigers" and by Kamala Das in "My Mother at Sixty-six" contribute to the overall themes of their respective poems? [120-150 Words]

Ans. Imagery plays a significant role in both Aunt Jennifer's Tigers and My Mother at Sixty-six, contributing to the central themes of each poem. In Aunt Jennifer's Tigers, the imagery of the tigers prancing fearlessly across a green world symbolizes Aunt Jennifer's desire for freedom from the shackles of her oppressive marriage. The image of her fluttering fingers and the heavy wedding ring on her hand further illustrates the anxiety and pressure she experiences. Similarly, in My Mother at Sixty-six, Kamala Das uses vivid imagery to contrast life and death. The description of the mother's face as ashen, like a corpse, paints a stark image of aging and mortality. The lively imagery of the young trees and children outside the car juxtaposes this bleak scene, symbolizing vitality and youth. Both poets use powerful visual imagery to communicate deep emotional experiences and the complexities of human life.

How do imagery and symbolism in the poems "Aunt Jennifer's Tigers" and "My Mother at Sixty-six" offer insights into relationships? Write a diary entry expressing your thoughts. You may begin this way :
I read the two poems today and ... [120-150 Words]

Ans. I read the two poems today and both use imagery and symbolism to explore relationships in different ways. Aunt Jennifer's Tigers uses the symbol of the tigers to represent Aunt Jennifer's desire for freedom, contrasting the fear and constraint she feels in her marriage. The tigers' boldness, moving fearlessly across the green world, symbolizes the freedom she yearns for. The wedding ring symbolizes the oppressive burden of marital life that she cannot escape, and the image of her trembling fingers reflects her internal fear of her husband's dominance. In contrast, My Mother at Sixty-six explores the relationship between mother and daughter. The image of the mother's face ashen and lifeless evokes the fear of losing her to death. The vibrant imagery of young trees and children running symbolizes life and youth, juxtaposed with the stillness and fragility of her mother's condition. Both poems employ imagery and symbolism to illustrate the emotional depth of their relationships and the unspoken struggles within them.

Create a comprehensive comparison of the themes present in 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' and 'My Mother at Sixty-six'. Specifically discuss the different ways each poem addresses the concept of struggle and resilience. [120-150 Words]

Ans. In both Aunt Jennifer's Tigers and My Mother at Sixty-six, the theme of struggle and resilience is explored, though in contrasting contexts. In Aunt Jennifer's Tigers, the poem delves into the struggles of a woman trapped in a repressive marriage. The tigers in the embroidery represent Aunt Jennifer's longing for freedom, as they move with grace and boldness, contrasting with her own fear. Her trembling hands and the heavy weight of the wedding ring symbolize the oppressive burden of marital life. On the other hand, My Mother at Sixty-six portrays the struggle of a daughter facing the inevitable aging and decline of her mother. The poem reflects the emotional turmoil of fearing loss, yet the daughter's resilience is seen in her ability to smile and depart, despite the heaviness in her heart. Both poems reveal internal struggles and demonstrate resilience through their characters' silent strength.

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Ans. Both Keeping Quiet and My Mother at Sixty-six emphasize introspection and the importance of quiet reflection. In Keeping Quiet, Neruda encourages people to pause, stop their busy lives, and reflect on their actions. This moment of stillness is a call for self-awareness and better decision-making. In My Mother at Sixty-six, the poet contemplates the inevitable aging and death of her mother. Despite the emotional turmoil, she hides her feelings behind a smile, quietly reflecting on her mother's condition. Both poems highlight the power of silence and reflection as a means to understand oneself and the world. Through these moments of introspection, the characters are able to come to terms with their feelings and make decisions that guide them forward, underscoring the value of quiet thought in navigating life's challenges.

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If Aunt Jennifer speaks to Pablo Neruda, the poet of “Keeping Quiet”, about her problems and constraints, would it be right for her to accept his response of introspection, reflection and silence? Write a letter to Pablo Neruda expressing her views. [120-150 Words]

Ans. Dear Pablo

I appreciate your advice about introspection and silence. However, I must express that this approach doesn’t seem suitable for my situation. Marital bonds, though sacred, can sometimes become suffocating when one partner is subjected to constant repression and fear. I am often criticized for things as trivial as my hobby

of embroidery, and I am constantly afraid that my husband will object. My fingers tremble as I work, and I feel helpless in his presence. It feels as though I am walking on eggshells, always under his control. Your suggestion of remaining silent only intensifies my feeling of powerlessness. Silence, in my case, has become a cage. I need to find the strength to voice my discomfort, not remain quiet and allow this toxic relationship to take its toll on me. I hope you will reconsider the approach you have suggested. Your Friend Jennifer.

If you were the poet of “A Thing of Beauty”, how would you interpret the need for quiet introspection as mentioned in “Keeping Quiet”? [120-150 Words]

Ans. If I were the poet of A Thing of Beauty, I would view quiet introspection as an essential means of finding harmony with the world around us. In Keeping Quiet, the poet emphasizes the need for a pause in our hectic lives to truly understand ourselves and our surroundings. Similarly, introspection helps us develop a deeper connection with nature’s beauty. As we stop and reflect, we begin to realize how the little, often unnoticed things, like the stars or the changing seasons, enrich our lives. Through introspection, we learn to appreciate the simple joys and the beauty of life. This quiet reflection is the key to inner peace, and it allows us to experience the world in a more profound, meaningful way.

..... but will keep

A bower quiet for us. (A Thing of Beauty)

Perhaps the Earth can teach us as

when everything seems dead

and later proves to be alive. (Keeping Quiet)

Based on ideas from ‘Keeping Quiet’ and ‘A Thing of Beauty’, as President of Eco Club of your school. Draft a speech on the importance of preserving nature for the benefit of mankind. You may begin like this.

Good morning to one and all !

After reading both the poems, I strongly believe [120-150 Words]

Ans. Good morning to one and all!

After reading both A Thing of Beauty and Keeping Quiet, I strongly believe that preserving nature is essential for our well-being. John Keats, in A Thing of Beauty, emphasizes how the beauty of nature brings us joy and solace, while Pablo Neruda in Keeping Quiet advocates for moments of stillness to reflect on our deeper connection to the Earth. Both poems remind us that nature is a source of peace and a constant presence in our lives. Unfortunately, as we continue to harm the environment, we risk losing this precious gift. It is critical for us to take responsibility and actively protect our natural resources—planting trees, reducing waste, and safeguarding wildlife. Small steps, like conserving water or cutting down on plastic use, can make a significant impact. Let’s work together to preserve nature for future generations, so they too can experience the beauty and tranquility it offers.

Thank you.

Imagine you are Pablo Neruda of 'Keeping Quiet'. He advises Robert Frost in the context of his conflict and pain at the plight of the roadside stand owners. Pen down your advice in a letter to Robert Frost. You may begin.

Dear Frost,

You seem very pained at the plight of the roadside stand owners, and I would like to advise you... [120-150 Words]

Ans. Dear Frost,

I understand the pain you feel for the roadside stand owners and their struggle. However, I must advise you to not lose hope in the face of adversity. Death should never be seen as a way to end suffering. Instead, I encourage you to focus on solutions that can improve their lives and bring about real change. One way to do this would be to help these workers come together and form a cooperative. Through a cooperative, they can sell their goods at a fair price, organize their resources, and market them more effectively. By teaching them about sanitation, health, and the benefits of organization, we can empower these individuals to improve their living conditions. This approach can help them thrive, and you will find fulfillment in seeing the change you bring to their lives.

I hope you will find my advice useful.

Your friend

Pablo

Imagine you are John Keats, the poet of 'A Thing of Beauty'. What advice might you offer to Robert Frost, the poet of 'A Roadside Stand' in the context of his 'The sadness that lurks near the open window'? Pen down your advice in a letter to Frost on how to deal with sadness. You may begin this way :

Dear Robert,

I have recently read your poem 'A Roadside Stand' and

You may end this way :

Despite the fact that our lives are full of sorrow and suffering, the beautiful things around us give us the strength to endure the sadness of life.

Warmly

John Keats [120-150 Words]

Ans. Dear Robert,

I have recently read your poem A Roadside Stand and felt the depth of the sadness you expressed about the plight of the rural poor. I understand how sorrow can feel like an ever-present shadow, lurking at the window of our hearts. However, as I have written in A Thing of Beauty, beauty has the power to heal and bring comfort, even amidst life's hardships. When sadness seems overwhelming, I encourage you to seek out the quiet beauty in nature and in the small, fleeting moments that surround us. Whether it's the serenity of the stars or the calmness of a tranquil landscape, such moments of beauty provide a refuge from the world's sorrow. They remind us that, despite the pain, there is still much to be grateful for. Despite the fact that our lives are full of sorrow and suffering, the beautiful things

around us give us the strength to endure the sadness of life.

Yours sincerely,

John Keats

'A Thing of Beauty' and 'A Roadside Stand' are poetic expressions of human relationships. The first engages with nature while the latter highlights the individual's place in society. Describe with reference to the two poems. [120/150 Words]

Ans. The poems A Thing of Beauty and A Roadside Stand both delve into human relationships, but from different perspectives. In A Thing of Beauty, nature is presented as a source of solace and joy. The beauty found in the natural world—whether it be the shade of a tree, the coolness of a stream, or the vibrant flowers—offers a reprieve from life's struggles. Keats celebrates these eternal gifts of nature, emphasizing how they provide meaning and comfort in a world that can often be filled with greed and despair.

On the other hand, A Roadside Stand focuses on the harsh reality of the rural poor, highlighting their struggles for survival in a society that largely ignores them. The poem portrays the deep yearning of the rural people for recognition and the exploitation they face from the wealthy and powerful. The poem addresses the disparity between the rich and the poor and reflects the bitter social realities that divide society.

Both poems, in their own way, explore the complexities of human relationships—whether through the nurturing, comforting power of nature or the deep sorrow of social inequality.

If you were the poet of "A Thing of Beauty", how would you interpret the need for quiet introspection as mentioned in "Keeping Quiet"? [120-150 Words]

Ans. If I were the poet of A Thing of Beauty, I would view the concept of quiet introspection, as expressed in Keeping Quiet, as an essential practice for fully appreciating the beauty that surrounds us. In Keeping Quiet, the poet advocates for stillness and reflection to pause and understand the impact of our actions on the world. This quiet contemplation serves as a gateway to a deeper connection with the wonders of life. Similarly, in A Thing of Beauty, I would see introspection as the key to recognizing and appreciating the simple, yet profound beauty in the world around us. Just as nature's beauty offers peace and comfort, reflection helps us to truly grasp its significance and find joy in the small, often overlooked moments. Quiet introspection nurtures a deeper understanding of our place in the world and encourages contentment.

Imagine you are John Keats, the poet of 'A Thing of Beauty'. What advice might you offer to Robert Frost, the poet of 'A Roadside Stand' in the context of his 'The sadness that lurks near the open window'? Pen down your advice in a letter to Frost on how to deal with sadness. You may begin this way :

Dear Robert,

I have recently read your poem 'A Roadside Stand' and

You may end this way :

Despite the fact that our lives are full of sorrow and suffering, the beautiful things around us give us the strength to endure the sadness of life.

Warmly

John Keats [120-150 Words]

Ans. Dear Robert,

I recently came across your poignant poem 'A Roadside Stand' and felt deeply moved by the sadness and yearning it conveys. As a fellow poet who has pondered the human condition, I too have explored how sorrow permeates life. In my work, 'A Thing of Beauty,' I reflect on how beauty in its many forms brings solace, acting as a refuge for the weary soul.

When you find yourself burdened by sorrow, I urge you to seek out the simple beauties of nature, art, and human connection. These moments of grace serve as reminders that despite the pain, there is still joy and hope to be found. Beauty, in its purest forms, provides strength to endure life's hardships.

Despite the fact that our lives are full of sorrow and suffering, the beautiful things around us give us the strength to endure the sadness of life.

Yours sincerely,

John Keats

'A Thing of Beauty' and 'A Roadside Stand' are poetic expressions of human relationships. The first engages with nature while the latter highlights the individual's place in society. Describe with reference to the two poems. [120-150 Words]

Ans. In 'A Thing of Beauty,' Keats highlights the deep connection between humans and the natural world, seeing nature's beauty as a source of solace and joy. The poet appreciates the timeless comfort offered by the earth's creations— such as the shady bower, the cool rills, and the sheep—that provide spiritual nourishment and a reason to persevere in life's challenges.

Conversely, 'A Roadside Stand' by Robert Frost focuses on the disparity between the rural poor and the urban elite. The stand owners, seeking only basic survival, are ignored and oppressed by a society that disregards their suffering. The poem reflects a societal imbalance, underscoring the hardship of individuals trying to make a living while those in power perpetuate their misery.

Both poems explore human relationships and emotions, emphasizing the need for empathy and a balance between personal fulfillment and societal duty.

Justify this statement with reference to the poem 'A Roadside Stand' and the text 'The Lost Spring', "Social satire in the two texts portrays two contrasting worlds that exist in society." [120-150 Words]

Ans. Social satire in both 'A Roadside Stand' and 'Lost Spring' vividly portrays contrasting worlds in society. In Frost's 'A Roadside Stand,' the rural poor, struggling to make a living through humble roadside stands, are caught in the gap

between the booming cities and their own desperate poverty. The urban dwellers, who pass them by, represent a world of prosperity and indifference to the struggles of the marginalized.

Similarly, in 'Lost Spring,' the plight of children like Saheb and Mukesh, forced into hazardous labor, shows the cruel cycle of poverty that stifles their dreams and opportunities. Both texts expose the harsh realities of social inequality and the stark contrast in living conditions for the privileged and the underprivileged.

These contrasting worlds highlight the deep divide in society, where the dreams of the impoverished remain unfulfilled while the fortunate flourish. Addressing these disparities is crucial for creating a just world.

Read the following extracts and answer the questions :

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, and for once could do nothing, perhaps a huge silence might interrupt this sadness of never understanding ourselves and of threatening ourselves with death.

(Keeping Quiet)

(i) Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract?

(A) Silence alleviates sadness of our life.

(B) Life and death are part of our existence.

(C) We must keep our lives moving.

(D) Life is stressful and monotonous.

Ans. (A) Silence alleviates sadness of our life.

(ii) State whether the following statement is True or False, with reference to the extract.

The poet feels that quiet productivity in place of all activities is desirable.

Ans. False

(iii) The sadness being referred to (line 9) is due to :

(A) failure to understand ourselves.

(B) failure to understand others.

(C) loss of peers in life.

(D) inability to achieve what we desire.

Ans. (A) failure to understand ourselves.

(iv) The poem has been written from the point of view of a/an :

- (A) environmentalist.
- (B) feminist.
- (C) social activist.
- (D) linguist.

Ans. (C) social activist.

(v) Based on the rhyme scheme, which of the following does not rhyme with line 1?

- (A) cruised
- (B) complaint
- (C) mused
- (D) bruised

Ans. (B) complaint

(vi) Complete the sentence appropriately.

In 'Life is what it is about', the poet is talking about _____ .

Ans. the importance of living life fully and consciously, without being consumed by constant activity and the fear of death.

Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow :

Now we will count to twelve and we will all keep still. For once on the face of the Earth let's not speak in any language, let's stop for one second, and not move our arms so much.

It would be an exotic moment without rush, without engines, we would all be together in a sudden strangeness.

(Keeping Quiet)

(i) Significance of counting up to twelve is

- (a) it is time to start the race.
- (b) it is symbolic of life.
- (c) it is a measure of time.
- (d) that time does not wait for anyone.

Ans. (c) it is a measure of time.

(ii) The word _____ in the extract means unusual and exciting.

Ans. exotic

(iii) Excessive activity would create an atmosphere of

- (a) productivity.
- (b) mechanisation.
- (c) confusion.
- (d) competition.

Ans. (c) confusion.

(iv) The poet would want to create all of the following EXCEPT

- (a) a peaceful environment.
- (b) a harmonious world.
- (c) an atmosphere for introspection.
- (d) a world full of hustle and bustle.

Ans. (d) a world full of hustle and bustle.

(v) Complete the following analogy correctly: face of the Earth :

_____ : : sudden strangeness : alliteration

Ans. personification

(vi) On the basis of the extract, study the two statements, I and II given below:

1. People must keep silent at twelve everyday.
2. Introspection will lead to peaceful coexistence.

Choose the most appropriate option :

- (a) I is false, but II is true
- (b) Both I and II are false
- (c) Both I and II are true
- (d) I is true, but II is false

Ans. (d) I is true, but II is false

What is Pablo Neruda's complaint against fishermen? [40-50 Words]

Ans. Pablo Neruda's complaint against fishermen is that they harm nature by killing whales. He calls for them to cease their destructive actions and instead, embrace stillness and contemplation, in order to better appreciate the beauty of the natural world.

'There can be life under apparent stillness'. Explain. [40-50 Words]

Ans. The phrase "There can be life under apparent stillness" in Neruda's poem suggests that even in moments of silence and inactivity, life continues in subtle ways. By pausing and reflecting, we can end destructive behaviors, find peace, and reconnect with ourselves and nature, where life thrives beneath the surface.

What according to Pablo Neruda in the poem 'Keeping Quiet' is the lesson that we should learn from mother earth? [40-50 Words]

Ans. According to Neruda in "Keeping Quiet," the lesson from Mother Earth is that life persists after apparent death. What seems lifeless at one point can later rejuvenate, symbolizing the cycles of life and renewal.

Give examples from 'Keeping Quiet' to show that Neruda was peace loving. [30 – 40 words]

Ans. Neruda's peaceful nature is evident in several parts of the poem. He urges the fishermen to cease killing whales, asks salt collectors to pause and reconsider their actions, and calls for warmongers to stop their violence, advocating for peace and

harmony instead..

What does Neruda wish fishermen and warmongers to do? [30 – 40 words]

Ans. Neruda hopes that fishermen will stop hunting whales and that warmongers will abandon their violent pursuits. He wishes for them to walk peacefully with their brothers, wearing their finest clothes, under the shade of trees, embracing stillness rather than conflict.

If Aunt Jennifer speaks to Pablo Neruda, the poet of “Keeping Quiet”, about her problems and constraints, would it be right for her to accept his response of introspection, reflection and silence? Write a letter to Pablo Neruda expressing her views. [120-150 Words]

Ans. Dear Pablo

I appreciate your advice about introspection and silence. However, I must express that this approach doesn't seem suitable for my situation. Marital bonds, though sacred, can sometimes become suffocating when one partner is subjected to constant repression and fear. I am often criticized for things as trivial as my hobby of embroidery, and I am constantly afraid that my husband will object. My fingers tremble as I work, and I feel helpless in his presence. It feels as though I am walking on eggshells, always under his control. Your suggestion of remaining silent only intensifies my feeling of powerlessness. Silence, in my case, has become a cage. I need to find the strength to voice my discomfort, not remain quiet and allow this toxic relationship to take its toll on me. I hope you will reconsider the approach you have suggested.

Your Friend

Jennifer.

If you were the poet of “A Thing of Beauty”, how would you interpret the need for quiet introspection as mentioned in “Keeping Quiet”? [120-150 Words]

Ans. If I were the poet of A Thing of Beauty, I would view quiet introspection as an essential means of finding harmony with the world around us. In Keeping Quiet, the poet emphasizes the need for a pause in our hectic lives to truly understand ourselves and our surroundings. Similarly, introspection helps us develop a deeper connection with nature's beauty. As we stop and reflect, we begin to realize how the little, often unnoticed things, like the stars or the changing seasons, enrich our lives. Through introspection, we learn to appreciate the simple joys and the beauty of life. This quiet reflection is the key to inner peace, and it allows us to experience the world in a more profound, meaningful way.

..... but will keep

A bower quiet for us. (A Thing of Beauty)

Perhaps the Earth can teach us as when everything seems dead and later proves to be alive. (Keeping Quiet) Based on ideas

from 'Keeping Quiet' and 'A Thing of Beauty', as President of Eco Club of your school. Draft a speech on the importance of preserving nature for the benefit of mankind.

You may begin like this.

Good morning to one and all !

After reading both the poems, I strongly believe [120-150 Words]

Ans. Good morning to one and all!

After reading both A Thing of Beauty and Keeping Quiet, I strongly believe that preserving nature is essential for our well-being. John Keats, in A Thing of Beauty, emphasizes how the beauty of nature brings us joy and solace, while Pablo Neruda in Keeping Quiet advocates for moments of stillness to reflect on our deeper connection to the Earth. Both poems remind us that nature is a source of peace and a constant presence in our lives. Unfortunately, as we continue to harm the environment, we risk losing this precious gift. It is critical for us to take responsibility and actively protect our natural resources—planting trees, reducing waste, and safeguarding wildlife. Small steps, like conserving water or cutting down on plastic use, can make a significant impact. Let's work together to preserve nature for future generations, so they too can experience the beauty and tranquility it offers.

Thank you.

Imagine you are Pablo Neruda of 'Keeping Quiet'. He advises Robert Frost in the context of his conflict and pain at the plight of the roadside stand owners. Pen down your advice in a letter to Robert Frost. You may begin.

Dear Frost,

You seem very pained at the plight of the roadside stand owners, and I would like to advise you... [120-150 Words]

Ans. Dear Frost,

I understand the pain you feel for the roadside stand owners and their struggle. However, I must advise you to not lose hope in the face of adversity. Death should never be seen as a way to end suffering. Instead, I encourage you to focus on solutions that can improve their lives and bring about real change. One way to do this would be to help these workers come together and form a cooperative. Through a cooperative, they can sell their goods at a fair price, organize their resources, and market them more effectively. By teaching them about sanitation, health, and the benefits of organization, we can empower these individuals to improve their living conditions. This approach can help them thrive, and you will find fulfillment in seeing the change you bring to their lives.

I hope you will find my advice useful.

Your friend

Pablo

Read the following extracts and answer the questions :

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.

(i) Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract?

- (A) Beauty provides security and peace.
- (B) Beauty lies in possession of expensive things.
- (C) Beauty is synonymous with power and riches.
- (D) Beauty lies in our rich heritage and palaces and temples.

Ans. (A) Beauty provides security and peace.

(ii) Complete the following sentence appropriately.

A thing of beauty never passes into nothingness because it is _____.

Ans. a source of perpetual joy.

(iii) 'Quiet bower' means a pleasant, shady, quiet place under trees or in the woods. This creates a sense of _____.

Ans. tranquillity.

(iv) State whether the given statement is True or False with reference to the extract.

The quality of a thing ensures that its beauty lasts forever.

Ans. True

(v) Based on the rhyme scheme in lines 3 and 4 of the given extract, which word will rhyme with them?

- (A) please
- (B) sweep
- (C) help
- (D) self

Ans. (B) sweep

(vi) The use of the word 'health' in the extract suggests that beautiful things will give us a happier and more wholesome life. It creates a powerful image of _____.

- (A) rejuvenation
- (B) attachment
- (C) long life
- (D) eternity

Ans. (A) rejuvenation

Read the following extracts and answer the questions :

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 :

(i) Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract?

- (A) The beautiful things in nature
- (B) Things that cause unhappiness
- (C) The immortality of human beings
- (D) The early morning fragrance of flowers

Ans. (A) The beautiful things in nature

(ii) State whether the given statement is True or False, with reference to the extract.

The paths we follow are often not worthy of our noble nature.

Ans. True

(iii) Complete the following sentence appropriately :

'We wreath for ourselves a flowery band every morrow because _____.'

Ans. It helps us stay connected to the earth despite the challenges and despair we face.

(iv) The use of the word 'dearth' creates a powerful image of _____.

Ans. a lack or scarcity of noble and virtuous people, contributing to a sense of gloom.

(v) Based on the rhyme scheme in lines 4 and 5, which of the following word will rhyme with 'days' and 'ways'?

- (A) craze
- (B) pays
- (C) haste
- (D) waste

Ans. (D) waste

(vi) The lack of punctuation at the end of line 3 in the extract is to :

- (A) create a sense of continuity and flow that connects it with the fourth line.
- (B) encourage the reader to understand grammar.
- (C) forewarn the reader of gloomy days ahead.
- (D) keep us connected to this earth.

Ans. (A) create a sense of continuity and flow that connects it with the fourth line.

'And such too is the grandeur of the dooms ; we have imagined for the mighty dead.' Explain the inference you can draw from the phrase 'mighty dead'. [40-50 Words]

Ans. The phrase 'mighty dead' refers to great historical figures and heroes who have passed away. The grandeur of their legacies and the impact they left behind continue to inspire and evoke admiration, showing that their influence endures beyond their lifetimes.

How and why does Keats relate 'mighty dead' to the 'Thing of Beauty'? [40-50 Words]

Ans. Keats relates the 'mighty dead' to the 'Thing of Beauty' by suggesting that the stories and legends of great historical figures add to the beauty and inspiration of the world. Their legacy contributes to the enduring beauty that Keats celebrates.

Do we experience things of beauty only for short moments or do they make a lasting impression? Explain. [40-50 Words]

Ans. Things that are beautiful last for a long time. It will always be a part of our memories. The happiness they give us lasts forever and grows greater every time we think about them. When we remember beautiful things from the past, it "lifts the cloud from our dark spirits."

In the poem "A Thing of Beauty", how is grandeur connected with the mighty dead? [40-50 Words]

Ans. The tales of the mighty soldiers who sacrificed their lives while fighting the enemy are impressive and inspiring. Thus, the poet says that the tales of the mighty dead have grandeur.

What is the theme of the poem – 'A Thing of Beauty'? [40 Words]

Ans. In many ways, A Thing of Beauty symbolises the romantic conclusion of Keats's strong trust in the non-destruction of beauty, in its claim to validity in light of its transience, and in its capacity to summon or interpret the truth. This serves as the poem's central idea. The poet's artistic interpretation of beauty as an unyielding source of delight and pleasure clashes with his awareness of the life's challenging issues, each of which the essence of beauty addresses in its own unique way. The objects of beauty are immune to time's impermanence and, in fact, mortality, unlike the commonplace objects of everyday certainty. Nature's sun, moon, plants, and animals are defenders of an infinity that cannot be compared to the transience and impermanence of human plans.

How does a thing of beauty provide shelter and comfort? [40 Words]

Ans. A thing of beauty provides shelter and comfort by offering solace and inspiration. It uplifts the spirit and brings joy, making life more bearable and

enriching.

What are the things that cause suffering and pain? [40 Words]

Ans. Inhumanity, the lack of noble souls causes gloom and makes lives over darkened.

What, according to Keats, causes a pall over our spirits? [40 Words]

Ans. Spite of despondence, inhuman dearth of noble natures, of the gloomy days, unhealthy and over darkened ways causes a pall over our spirits.

How can the 'mighty dead' be described as 'a thing of beauty'? Explain. [40 Words]

Ans. The mighty dead inspire humanity, their tales of valour inspire us for generations to come and so, are things of beauty.

What makes human beings love life in spite of troubles and sufferings? [40 Words]

Ans. Human beings love life in spite of troubles and sufferings because of the existence of several natural and beautiful things around them. These things of beauty never fade. They give joy and optimism to human mind, and thus, help in overcoming or bearing the troubles and sufferings.

According to the poet, Keats, nature offers a vast array of beautiful things around us which we fail to notice in our mundane life. List the beautiful things. [40 Words]

Ans. The things of beauty mentioned in the poem are the Sun, Moon, trees, flowers, sheep, streams and tales of the mighty dead.

Imagine you are John Keats, the poet of 'A Thing of Beauty'. What advice might you offer to Robert Frost, the poet of 'A Roadside Stand' in the context of his 'The sadness that lurks near the open window'? Pen down your advice in a letter to Frost on how to deal with sadness. You may begin this way :

Dear Robert,

I have recently read your poem 'A Roadside Stand' and

You may end this way :

Despite the fact that our lives are full of sorrow and suffering, the beautiful things around us give us the strength to endure the sadness of life.

Warmly

John Keats [120-150 Words]

Ans. Dear Robert,

I have recently read your poem A Roadside Stand and felt the depth of the sadness you expressed about the plight of the rural poor. I understand how sorrow can feel like an ever-present shadow, lurking at the window of our hearts. However, as I have written in A Thing of Beauty, beauty has the power to heal and bring comfort, even amidst life's hardships. When sadness seems overwhelming, I encourage you to seek out the quiet beauty in nature and in the small, fleeting moments that surround us. Whether it's the serenity of the stars or the calmness of a tranquil

landscape, such moments of beauty provide a refuge from the world's sorrow. They remind us that, despite the pain, there is still much to be grateful for.

Despite the fact that our lives are full of sorrow and suffering, the beautiful things around us give us the strength to endure the sadness of life.

Yours sincerely,

John Keats

'A Thing of Beauty' and 'A Roadside Stand' are poetic expressions of human relationships. The first engages with nature while the latter highlights the individual's place in society. Describe with reference to the two poems. [120-150 Words]

Ans. The poems A Thing of Beauty and A Roadside Stand both delve into human relationships, but from different perspectives. In A Thing of Beauty, nature is presented as a source of solace and joy. The beauty found in the natural world—whether it be the shade of a tree, the coolness of a stream, or the vibrant flowers—offers a reprieve from life's struggles. Keats celebrates these eternal gifts of nature, emphasizing how they provide meaning and comfort in a world that can often be filled with greed and despair.

On the other hand, A Roadside Stand focuses on the harsh reality of the rural poor, highlighting their struggles for survival in a society that largely ignores them. The poem portrays the deep yearning of the rural people for recognition and the exploitation they face from the wealthy and powerful. The poem addresses the disparity between the rich and the poor and reflects the bitter social realities that divide society.

Both poems, in their own way, explore the complexities of human relationships—whether through the nurturing, comforting power of nature or the deep sorrow of social inequality.

If you were the poet of "A Thing of Beauty", how would you interpret the need for quiet introspection as mentioned in "Keeping Quiet"? [120-150 Words]

Ans. If I were the poet of A Thing of Beauty, I would view the concept of quiet introspection, as expressed in Keeping Quiet, as an essential practice for fully appreciating the beauty that surrounds us. In Keeping Quiet, the poet advocates for stillness and reflection to pause and understand the impact of our actions on the world. This quiet contemplation serves as a gateway to a deeper connection with the wonders of life. Similarly, in A Thing of Beauty, I would see introspection as the key to recognizing and appreciating the simple, yet profound beauty in the world around us. Just as nature's beauty offers peace and comfort, reflection helps us to truly grasp its significance and find joy in the small, often overlooked moments. Quiet introspection nurtures a deeper understanding of our place in the world and encourages contentment.

Read the following extracts and answer the questions :

The little old house was out with a little new shed
in front at the edge of the road where the traffic sped.
A road side stand that too pathetically pled
It would not be fair to say for a dole of bread.
But for some of the money, the cash, whose flow supports
'The flower of cities from sinking and withering faint.

(i) Which of the following expressions has the same literary device as used in
"A roadside stand that too pathetically pled."

- (A) All the world's a stage.
- (B) I wandered lonely, as a cloud.
- (C) The brutal wind bullied the tree.
- (D) And life is too much like a pathless wood.

Ans. (C) The brutal wind bullied the tree.

(ii) Select the option that aptly conveys the poet's point of view with reference to
the above extract :

The roadside stand is put up with the purpose to

- (A) display fruits
- (B) to stop the traffic
- (C) to do business
- (D) to interact with city people

Ans. (C) to do business

(iii) What do you infer about the people, who put up the roadside stand from the
phrase 'would not be fair to say for a dole of bread'?

Ans. The people who put up the roadside stand are not begging for charity; instead,
they are trying to earn a living by selling goods to support themselves.

(iv) Complete the following sentence with reference to the extract.

'The word 'pathetically' reflects the _____ condition of the roadside stand.

Ans. The word 'pathetically' reflects the poor condition of the roadside stand.

(v) State whether the following statement is True or False :

By 'Flower of Cities', the poet refers to the garden in cities.

Ans. False

(vi) Based on the rhyme scheme, evident in lines 1-4, which word would rhyme
with line 2? _____ part fled seen

Ans. fled

Read the following extracts and answer the questions :

Sometimes I feel myself I can hardly bear

The thought of so much childish longing in vain,
The sadness that lurks near the open window there,
That waits all day in almost open prayer.
For the squeal of brakes, the sound of a stopping car,
Of all the thousand selfish cars that pass,
Just one to inquire what a farmer's prices are
And one did stop, but only to plow up grass
In using the yard to back and turn around;
And another to ask the way to where it was bound ;
(A Roadside Stand)

(i) Select the option that has the same literary device as in 'The sadness that lurks near the open window there'.

(A) Lucy moved across the room like a warship sailing into battle.

(B) Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.

(C) The water-wraith was shrieking.

(D) The pen is mightier than the sword.

Ans. (C) The water-wraith was shrieking.

(ii) They prayed for the stopping of a car. When one car finally stopped, it brought _____ to the people of the roadside stand.

(A) help

(B) happiness

(C) disappointment

(D) cash flow

Ans. (C) disappointment

(iii) Explain one inference that can be drawn from the line, '.....childish longing in vain'.

Ans. The line indicates that the people at the roadside stand have a naive hope for customers to stop and buy their goods, but this hope is often unmet, leading to disappointment.

(iv) Complete the sentence appropriately.

The emotion of the poet reflected in the above extract is _____.

Ans. The emotion of the poet reflected in the above extract is sorrow and frustration.

(v) The expression 'selfish car' suggests that _____.

Ans. The expression 'selfish car' suggests that the people driving these cars are indifferent to the needs of the roadside stand owners.

(vi) Based on the rhyme scheme evident in the last two lines of the extract, which word would rhyme with the last line?

brass reply sound

Ans. sound

Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow :

In front at the edge of the road where the traffic sped,
A roadside stand too pathetically pled,
It would not be fair to say for a dole of bread,
But for some of the money, the cash, whose flow supports
The flower of cities from sinking and withering faint.
The polished traffic passed with a mind ahead,
Or if ever aside a moment, then out of sorts
At having the landscape marred with the artless paint
Of signs that with N turned wrong and S turned wrong

(i) What is the tone of the poet in the extract?

Choose the correct option:

- (a) optimistic
- (b) resigned
- (c) sympathetic
- (d) indifferent

Ans. (b) resigned

(ii) With reference to the given extract, what harm has been caused by the 'artless paint'?

Ans. It has spoiled the natural beauty of the landscape.

(iii) The city is compared to _____.

- (a) a landscape
- (b) signs of N and S
- (c) a flower
- (d) a dole of bread

Ans. (a) a landscape

(iv) Choose the correct option :

The roadside stand is

- (a) at the edge of the road.
- (b) marred with artless paint.
- (c) like the flower of cities.
- (d) well maintained.

Ans. (a) at the edge of the road.

(v) What type of expectations do the stand owners have from the city dwellers who come there?

Ans. They expect the city dwellers to stop at the shed, buy the produce kept on sale and give them money.

(vi) Complete the analogy with a word from the given extract. donate : contribute : : dying : _____

Ans. sinking

What was the expectation of the people who had set up the roadside stand? [40-50 Words]

Ans. The people who had set up the roadside stand expected to attract city dwellers who would stop by, buy their farm produce, and provide them with some financial support. They hoped to gain some economic relief from their struggling livelihoods.

Who does the poet accuse of having double standards in "The Roadside Stand"? [40-50 Words]

Ans. The politicians who are called 'party in power' have double standards. They promise the rural people a good life but they swarm over their lives, take benefits from them and soothe them out of their wits.

What does the expression 'polished traffic' refer to? What does it reveal about city people? [40-50 Words]

Ans. The expression 'polished traffic' refers to the the well groomed, rich city people travelling by the polished traffic. It tells that the city people are educated and rich.

What are the probable causes of the passing cars to stop near the roadside stand? [30-40 words]

Ans. They stop by the stand to ask directions, to reverse the car, to ask if they sell gas, to ask the prices of the goods on sale and to complain about the ugly shed which spoils the landscape.

Imagine you are John Keats, the poet of 'A Thing of Beauty'. What advice might you offer to Robert Frost, the poet of 'A Roadside Stand' in the context of his 'The sadness that lurks near the open window'? Pen down your advice in a letter to Frost on how to deal with sadness. You may begin this way :

Dear Robert,

I have recently read your poem 'A Roadside Stand' and

You may end this way :

Despite the fact that our lives are full of sorrow and suffering, the beautiful things around us give us the strength to endure the sadness of life.

Warmly

John Keats [120-150 Words]

Ans. Dear Robert,

I recently came across your poignant poem 'A Roadside Stand' and felt deeply

moved by the sadness and yearning it conveys. As a fellow poet who has pondered the human condition, I too have explored how sorrow permeates life. In my work, 'A Thing of Beauty,' I reflect on how beauty in its many forms brings solace, acting as a refuge for the weary soul.

When you find yourself burdened by sorrow, I urge you to seek out the simple beauties of nature, art, and human connection. These moments of grace serve as reminders that despite the pain, there is still joy and hope to be found. Beauty, in its purest forms, provides strength to endure life's hardships.

Despite the fact that our lives are full of sorrow and suffering, the beautiful things around us give us the strength to endure the sadness of life.

Yours sincerely,

John Keats

'A Thing of Beauty' and 'A Roadside Stand' are poetic expressions of human relationships. The first engages with nature while the latter highlights the individual's place in society. Describe with reference to the two poems. [120-150 Words]

Ans. In 'A Thing of Beauty,' Keats highlights the deep connection between humans and the natural world, seeing nature's beauty as a source of solace and joy. The poet appreciates the timeless comfort offered by the earth's creations—such as the shady bower, the cool rills, and the sheep—that provide spiritual nourishment and a reason to persevere in life's challenges.

Conversely, 'A Roadside Stand' by Robert Frost focuses on the disparity between the rural poor and the urban elite. The stand owners, seeking only basic survival, are ignored and oppressed by a society that disregards their suffering. The poem reflects a societal imbalance, underscoring the hardship of individuals trying to make a living while those in power perpetuate their misery.

Both poems explore human relationships and emotions, emphasizing the need for empathy and a balance between personal fulfillment and societal duty.

Justify this statement with reference to the poem 'A Roadside Stand' and the text 'The Lost Spring'.

You may begin.

social satire in the two texts portrays two contrasting worlds that exist in society. [120-150 Words]

Ans. Social satire in both 'A Roadside Stand' and 'Lost Spring' vividly portrays contrasting worlds in society. In Frost's 'A Roadside Stand,' the rural poor, struggling to make a living through humble roadside stands, are caught in the gap between the booming cities and their own desperate poverty. The urban dwellers, who pass them by, represent a world of prosperity and indifference to the struggles of the marginalized.

Similarly, in 'Lost Spring,' the plight of children like Saheb and Mukesh, forced into hazardous labor, shows the cruel cycle of poverty that stifles their dreams and opportunities. Both texts expose the harsh realities of social inequality and the

stark contrast in living conditions for the privileged and the underprivileged. These contrasting worlds highlight the deep divide in society, where the dreams of the impoverished remain unfulfilled while the fortunate flourish. Addressing these disparities is crucial for creating a just world.

Read the following extracts and answer the questions :

Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen,
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green.
They do not fear the men beneath the tree;
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.

(i) Which of the following are symbolised by the 'tigers' in the extract above?

1. masculine world
 2. feminine world
 - III. world of bold, fearless creatures
 1. world of beautiful handicrafts
- (A) I, II and III
(B) II, III and IV
(C) III and IV
(D) I, III and IV

Ans. (C) III and IV

(ii) State whether the given statement is True or False.

The creator of the tigers was fearless and assertive like the tigers.

Ans. False

(iii) Complete the following sentence.

The use of the word 'topaz' suggests that the image of the tiger on the screen is _____.

Ans. bright yellow colour / real / perfect creation

(iv) 'Tigers do not fear the men beneath the tree' because they are

- (A) tamed
(B) in a cage
(C) fearless
(D) kings of the jungle

Ans. (C) fearless

(v) Based on the poem's rhyme scheme evident in lines 1 and 2, which of the following will rhyme? mean, akin, cream

Ans. mean

(vi) Chivalric certainty refers to which poetic device?

- (A) Alliteration
- (B) Metaphor
- (C) Simile
- (D) Repetition

Ans. (A) Alliteration

Read the following extracts and answer the questions :

Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool
Find even the ivory needle hard to pull. The
massive weight of Uncle's wedding band
Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.

(i) Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract?

- (A) The maturity of adulthood
- (B) The glory of femininity
- (C) Victim of male domination
- (D) The superficial beauty

Ans. (C) Victim of male domination

(ii) State whether the following statement is True or False, with reference to the extract.

Aunt Jennifer is nervous and traumatized because of the constraints of her marriage.

Ans. True

(iii) Complete the following sentence appropriately :

The fingers fluttering through her wool symbolize _____.

Ans. Aunt Jennifer's struggle and oppression under the weight of her marriage.

(iv) The use of the words "massive weight" creates a powerful image of _____.

Ans. the burden and oppression imposed by Uncle's wedding band on Aunt Jennifer.

(v) Based on the rhyme scheme in lines 3 and 4, which word would rhyme with 'band' and 'hand'?

- (A) stand
- (B) wind
- (C) bent
- (D) tent

Ans. (A) stand

(vi) The heavy wedding ring is a source of :

- (A) joy.
- (B) freedom.
- (C) dignity.

(D) burden.

Ans. (D) burden.

Read the following extracts and answer the questions :

Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool
Find even the ivory needle hard to pull. The
massive weight of Uncle's wedding band sits
heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand when Aunt

is dead, her terrified hands will lie still ringed
with ordeals she was mastered by, The Tigers
in the panel that she made will go on
prancing, proud and unafraid.

(i) 'Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.' Through the above expression the poet indicates :

- (A) Aunt Jennifer is happily married.
- (B) Aunt Jennifer loves the tigers in the panel.
- (C) Aunt Jennifer's unhappy married life.
- (D) Aunt Jennifer's rich and luxurious life.

Ans. (C) Aunt Jennifer's unhappy married life.

(ii) Select the option that has the same literary device as used in 'Still ringed with ordeals'.

- (A) Leopards cannot hide in the jungle as they are spotted.
- (B) Sun smiled happily on us.
- (C) Her lovely voice was music to his ears.
- (D) Life is like a box of chocolates.

Ans. (B) Sun smiled happily on us.

(iii) Complete the following sentences with reference to the extract.

The Tigers in the panel symbolize _____.

Ans. The Tigers in the panel symbolize strength and independence

(iv) State whether the statement given below is True or False :

"Find even the ivory needle hard to pull."

'The above expression suggests that Aunt Jennifer is dying.

Ans. False

(v) Based on the rhyme scheme, evident in lines 1-2, which word would rhyme with line 1? _____ full sand bye

Ans. full

(vi) The use of the word 'fluttering fingers' in the extract suggest that the fingers of Aunt Jennifer are trembling. This creates an image of _____.

Ans. This creates an image of fear and weakness.

Read the following extracts and answer the questions :

Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen,
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green, They
do not fear the men beneath the tree;
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.
Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool
Find even the ivory needle hard to pull. The
massive weight of uncle's wedding band

Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.

(i) Denizens of the world of green refer to _____.

- (a) huntsmen
- (b) Aunt Jennifer
- (c) uncle
- (d) tigers

Ans. (d) tigers

(ii) Choose the option that displays the same poetic device as used in the second line of the extract.

- (a) heart of stone
- (b) trees sprouting
- (c) silver spoon
- (d) white murder

Ans. (a) heart of stone

(iii) The men setting beneath the tree are _____.

Ans. The tired humans

(iv) What quality of uncle can be inferred through these lines?

- (a) compassionate nature
- (b) courageous
- (c) confident
- (d) dominating

Ans. (d) dominating

(v) The tigers in the extract are symbolic of

- (a) creativity and courage
- (b) confidence and gentleness

- (c) cruelty and fear
- (d) aggression and starving

Ans. (a) creativity and courage

(vi) Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across

- (1) the screen
- (2) the fields
- (3) the embroidered tunic
- (4) the cage

Which of the following is the most appropriate choice?

- (a) (1) and (2)
- (b) (2) and (4)
- (c) (1), (2) and (3)
- (d) (1) and (3)

Ans. (a) (1) and (2)

Explain how "The tigers in the panel Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid." [40-50 Words]

Ans. The tigers in the tapestry symbolize freedom, power, and confidence. Unlike Aunt Jennifer, who is oppressed by her marriage, these tigers remain unafraid and bold. They embody her longing for independence and strength, contrasting sharply with her own submissive life.

Why do Aunt Jennifer's tigers not fear the men beneath the tree? [40-50 Words]

Ans. The tigers do not fear the men because the men are portrayed as brave and honorable, much like knights. The tigers move fearlessly in the wild, symbolizing their ability to live confidently and without intimidation from anyone, including the men beneath the tree.

Why did Aunt Jennifer create tigers so different from her own character? [40-50 Words]

Ans. Aunt Jennifer created tigers that differed from her own nature because they represent the strength and freedom she yearns for but cannot achieve. The tigers symbolize her desires for power and independence, qualities she lacks in her own constrained and controlled life.

What was Aunt Jennifer terrified of? [40 Words]

Ans. Aunt Jennifer's terror likely stemmed from her oppressive marriage. Her trembling hands while embroidering might reflect her fear of her husband's disapproval or the weight of her marital responsibilities, suggesting that she felt trapped in her domestic life.

Aunt Jennifer deserves our sympathy? Elaborate. [40 Words]

Ans. Aunt Jennifer deserves sympathy because she has lived a life dominated by her husband's authority, bearing the weight of marital obligations from an early

age. These burdens have constrained her, and even in death, she continues to be burdened by them, making her plight heart-wrenching.

What does Aunt Jennifer symbolize in the poem 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers'? [40 Words]

Ans. Aunt Jennifer symbolizes the oppression and restrictions imposed on women by societal expectations, particularly within marriage. Through the tigers, she expresses her inner desire for strength and autonomy, highlighting the stark contrast between her reality and her dreams.

Describe the contrast between the tigers and Aunt Jennifer. [40 Words]

Ans. The tigers are strong, free, and fearless, moving gracefully through the forest. In contrast, Aunt Jennifer lives under the domination of her husband, constantly fearful, which is reflected in her trembling fingers as she works on her embroidery.

Explain the irony at the end of the poem, 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers'. [40 Words]

Ans. The irony lies in the fact that, while Aunt Jennifer's spirit remains burdened even after death, the tigers she created will continue to be free and unafraid. Her marriage's weight will haunt her forever, while the tigers she envisioned will forever remain courageous and strong.

Why does Adrienne Rich describe the tigers as 'chivalric' in the poem 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers'? [40 Words]

Ans. The tigers are described as 'chivalric' because they possess qualities of bravery, nobility, and confidence. Their fearless and purposeful movements contrast with Aunt Jennifer's own life, showing their majestic and unafraid nature.

Explain the significance of the 'denizens pacing in sleek certainty' in the poem 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers'. [40 Words]

Ans. The phrase refers to the tigers confidently inhabiting the forest. The 'sleek certainty' highlights their graceful and regal presence in nature. These tigers, bold and fearless, live with certainty and assurance, representing the qualities Aunt Jennifer desires but lacks.

What is the significance of the image "Massive weight of uncle's wedding band" in the poem 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers'? [40 Words]

Ans. The "massive weight of uncle's wedding band" symbolizes the heavy burden of marriage that Aunt Jennifer bears. It represents the limitations on her independence and the constant pressure of domestic responsibilities, which trap her and define her existence.

Why do you think Aunt Jennifer created animals that are so different from her own character? [40 Words]

Ans. Aunt Jennifer's tigers, representing strength, bravery, and fearlessness, are a

stark contrast to her own timid and oppressed character. They symbolize the courage and freedom she lacks and serves as an expression of her deep desire to escape her restricted life.

Imagine that Aunt Jennifer read the poem that Adrienne Rich wrote about her. After much contemplation, she decided to write a letter to her husband expressing her feelings and thoughts. Write the letter as Aunt Jennifer.

Ans:

12, Davidson County

23 January 'XX

Dear husband,

I'd like to express how much I adore you. I am confident that you share my sentiments. However, because of the society in which we were raised, I became a target of male chauvinism. I've been afraid of you, unknowingly to you. A girl must adjust to her new home immediately after marriage. When she is burdened with rules and regulations in that situation, she loses confidence. The same thing happened to me.

I was afraid to tell you this before, but Adrienne Rich's poem gave me the courage to tell you the truth. As I approach my deathbed, I want you to know that I have loved and cherished every moment of my life that I have spent with you, but I have been afraid that any of my words or activities will offend you. I hope you take this in good humor.

With love

Jennifer

Create a comprehensive comparison of the themes present in 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' and 'My Mother at Sixty-six'. Specifically discuss the different ways each poem addresses the concept of struggle and resilience. [120-150 Words]

Ans: The poem 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' centers around a woman's longing for freedom, highlighting the constraints of married life and the fear of her husband that continues to haunt her even after death. In contrast, the poem 'My Mother at Sixty-six' conveys the emotions of fear and separation. It portrays a woman's helplessness as she faces the reality of leaving her aging, ailing mother behind. She hides her distress behind a forced smile, masking her true emotions.

Both poems shed light on the struggles faced by married women. Aunt Jennifer suffers under the weight of her husband's oppression, with the pressure of marital duties causing her hands to tremble as she works on her embroidery. However, through the image of the bold and fearless tigers she embroiders, she expresses her inner desire for freedom and strength. Despite her struggles, she remains resilient and refuses to let her spirit die. Similarly, in 'My Mother at Sixty-six', the poet Kamala Das faces the fear of losing her elderly mother to death. Yet, she manages to overcome her grief, offering a smile to her mother, holding onto the hope of seeing her again, and leaving with a sense of positivity.

In both poems, we witness the emotional struggles of the women, but also the inner

strength that helps them endure the sorrow and maintain a sense of happiness.



A Thing Of Beauty

Short Answer

The pain of separation is expressed both literally and metaphorically in this poem. Elucidate.

Ans. In the poem "*My Mother at Sixty-Six*," Kamala Das conveys the pain of separation on both literal and metaphorical levels.

Literally, the separation is seen in the physical distance between the speaker and her mother. As the mother sleeps in the car while the speaker drives, there is a clear division of space, highlighting the physical absence of connection in the moment. This separation is emotionally charged, as the speaker feels sadness and a sense of impending loss, realizing that these moments together may become rarer due to the passage of time.

Metaphorically, the pain of separation is more profound, as it relates to the inevitable reality of aging and mortality. The speaker reflects on her mother's physical changes — her wrinkles and greying hair — which symbolize the aging process. These physical signs of time passing create an awareness in the speaker that both she and her mother are growing older. This serves as a reminder that the separation between them is not just physical but also emotional, as they are both bound by the reality of life's finite nature. Ultimately, this separation foreshadows the ultimate and irreversible separation that death will bring.

Q. No. 9) Comment on the tone of the poem with references to "My Mother at SixtySix".

Ans. The tone of Kamala Das's "*My Mother at Sixty-Six*" is poignant, melancholic, and reflective. The speaker expresses sadness and nostalgia as she observes her aging mother, highlighting the passage of time and the fear of eventual loss. At the same time, there is a deep sense of love and appreciation for her mother, making the tone both sorrowful and tender.

Q. No. 10) Imagery was an effective literary device to bring out the contrast between the "merry children" and the mother. Comment.

Ans. In "*My Mother at Sixty-Six*," Kamala Das effectively uses imagery to highlight the contrast between the "merry children" and the mother. The children are depicted as "spilling out of their homes," a vivid image that conveys youthful energy, joy, and vitality. This lively image creates a stark contrast to the image of the mother, who is described as "pale," "sleeping," and "waning." These descriptions evoke a sense of fragility, aging, and decline. The comparison to a "late winter moon" further intensifies the image of her weakening state, symbolizing the inevitable passage of time and the

me—thinking about her getting older and the thought of losing her. I can't stop feeling scared.

Me: That sounds tough. I totally get why you'd feel that way. It's natural to fear losing those we love.

Poet: It's just that I can't stop thinking about it. It's taking over my thoughts, affecting my work and even my relationships.

Me: Have you thought about talking to someone, like a counselor or therapist? It could help to have someone to talk to.

Poet: I haven't really considered it, but it might help. I just don't want to burden anyone with my worries.

Me: You're not a burden. Taking care of your mental health is important, and talking things through with someone can really help you understand your feelings and find ways to cope.

Poet: You're right. I think I'll look into it. Thanks for listening and for the advice.

Me: Anytime. And remember, it's okay to feel afraid and to ask for help. You don't have to carry it all alone.

Keeping Quiet

Short Answer

In a world that is constantly running after 'more' and chasing the next new thing, would it be fair to think of Neruda's call as merely a fanciful idea?

Ans. Neruda's call for stillness and introspection remains highly relevant for several important reasons:

1. **Relevance of Stillness:** In today's fast-paced world, where the pursuit of material gain and instant gratification often dominates our lives, Neruda's plea for stillness encourages us to slow down. It serves as a reminder to take a moment to pause, reflect, and reconnect with ourselves and others, beyond the endless chase for "more."
2. **Countering the Cycle:** Neruda's message of breaking free from the cycle of noise, chaos, and violence is a timely and profound one. It challenges the status quo, urging individuals to question the constant race for more and to explore alternative paths. This shift could lead to greater unity, peace, and deeper understanding among people.
3. **Importance of Introspection:** Introspection and stillness offer practical benefits, such as clarity of mind and more conscious decision-making. Taking time for self-reflection can promote inner peace, personal growth, and empathy, contributing to a more meaningful and balanced life.

Thus, rather than dismissing Neruda's call as an unrealistic ideal, we should recognize its relevance in today's world. His message has the potential to counterbalance the relentless pursuit of "more" and help foster positive change on both individual and collective levels.

Q. No. 21) The world has become a global village, and people across boundaries, nationalities, and communities are now connected to one another.

With the advancement of technology, and the advent of social media, do you think that the task of keeping quiet, as envisaged by Neruda, has become easier or more complicated? Justify your stance.

Ans. With the rapid advancement of technology and the global interconnectedness provided by social media, the task of "keeping quiet" as envisioned by Neruda in his poem "*Keeping Quiet*" has indeed become more complicated. Here are a few reasons why:

- 1. Constant Stimulation:** The constant flow of information, updates, and notifications from social media and other digital platforms creates a never-ending cycle of distractions. Technology ensures that individuals are always connected, engaged, and receiving new stimuli, making it difficult to find moments of quietness or stillness in daily life. The ease of access to news, entertainment, and virtual interactions often fills every moment of the day with noise, leaving little space for introspection or contemplation.
- 2. Fear of Missing Out (FOMO):** Social media amplifies the fear of missing out (FOMO), which pushes people to remain constantly connected. There is a compulsion to keep up with trends, news, and social updates. This creates an environment where individuals feel pressured to stay active, engaged, and informed, leaving little room for moments of silence and reflection.
- 3. Shortened Attention Spans:** The digital age has fostered shorter attention spans, with the rise of quick, bite-sized content, such as tweets, TikToks, and Instagram stories. This shift has made it harder for people to focus on longer, more thoughtful activities, such as deep introspection or meaningful moments of silence. The habit of consuming information in small doses encourages a preference for immediate gratification over the patience needed for true stillness.
- 4. Comparison and Validation:** Social media platforms often promote a culture of comparison and external validation, with users constantly seeking approval through likes, comments, and shares. This culture can create an environment where individuals are more focused on their online presence than on cultivating inner peace or quietude. The pressure to present a curated version of one's life can hinder the ability to disconnect and truly be at peace in silence.

Despite these challenges, it's important to recognize that technology and social media also have the potential to be used positively. They can be tools for promoting mindfulness, self-reflection, and even building meaningful connections. The key lies in how individuals choose to engage with these platforms. With conscious effort, setting boundaries, and prioritizing stillness, it's possible to use these tools in ways that foster introspection rather than distraction.

Long Answer

It could be said that the poem 'Keeping Quiet' presents the poet's philosophy for a different kind of world.

If you were asked to highlight elements of Neruda's vision that resonate in your specific social, political, and cultural context, which three main ideas would you engage with?

Use relevant textual details to support your analysis.

Ans. The three main ideas from Neruda's vision in *"Keeping Quiet"* are indeed highly relevant in today's social, political, and cultural context:

1. **Unity and Interconnectedness:** Neruda urges us to come together and recognize our shared humanity. In a world where division and polarization often dominate, his message is a reminder of the importance of empathy, mutual understanding, and solidarity. The idea of recognizing our common bonds can foster global cooperation, reduce isolation, and create a sense of collective responsibility.
2. **Breaking the Cycle of Violence:** Neruda's call to pause and reflect in order to find alternative ways to resolve conflicts is incredibly timely. In an era marked by political unrest, social divisions, and ongoing violence, his message encourages us to reconsider our approaches to conflict. By choosing reflection and peaceful dialogue over aggression, we can work toward more constructive and harmonious solutions to global issues.
3. **Personal Responsibility and Transformation:** Neruda emphasizes the role of individual self-reflection and the importance of each person's contribution to societal change. This idea calls on us to look inward, assess our behaviors, and seek personal growth. In today's world, where change often starts with the individual, this call to action reminds us that transformation begins with ourselves. By committing to personal responsibility, we can contribute to broader social change and help create a more just and compassionate world.

These ideas are not only powerful but also crucial in addressing the challenges we face today. By fostering unity, promoting peaceful conflict resolution, and encouraging personal transformation, we can move toward a more empathetic, peaceful, and evolved global society.

Q. No. 23) The last two years of school tend to be about planning for life after school. This can be motivating, overwhelming, or encouraging for some, and stressful for others.

Write a diary entry recording your thoughts on the following:

- **Neruda's ideas in 'Keeping Quiet' as a guide in this situation.**
- **Thinking differently about your decisions with reference to Neruda's 'Keeping Quiet'.**

Ans.

Dear Diary,

Today, I find myself deeply reflecting on Neruda's ideas in *"Keeping Quiet"* and how they might serve as a guiding light during this pivotal time of planning for life after school. The final years of school are truly a whirlwind—full of emotions ranging from excitement and motivation to the overwhelming weight of stress. Neruda's perspective provides a refreshing take on how to approach this period with a different mindset.

His notion of **unity and interconnectedness** resonates with me as I try to navigate this transitional phase. It's easy to get caught up in the race for individual success, focusing solely on what I can achieve for myself. But Neruda's words remind me to think beyond myself and consider how my decisions affect those around me. As I prepare for the future, I want to prioritize building meaningful connections, collaborating with others, and contributing to a supportive and nurturing community.

Neruda's call to **break the cycle of violence** also holds a lot of relevance. Planning for the future can often lead to unhealthy competition, comparison, and societal pressures to fit into a particular mold. I've realized that I don't have to fall into these traps. By taking time for stillness and introspection, I can focus on what truly matters—making decisions that align with my values and striving to make a positive impact, not just in my life but in the lives of others as well.

This new perspective empowers me to approach my decisions with more mindfulness. Instead of being swept up by the stress or expectations of society, I'm learning to take a moment to pause and listen to my inner voice. I want to prioritize my own well-being and passions, all while remaining aware of how my choices contribute to the world around me.

With Neruda's wisdom in mind, I feel more confident as I enter this phase of life. I can set realistic goals for myself, but also leave room for the unknown possibilities that lie ahead. His words remind me that I have the power to create a life that is true to who I am, one that reflects authenticity and compassion, while also contributing to a more harmonious world.

Till next time,

[Your Name]

A Thing Of Beauty

Short Answer

If you were given an opportunity to share your perception of beauty, what would you say? Explain.

Ans. That's a beautiful way to describe it. Beauty, in its many forms, really does have the power to uplift and soothe our souls. It's amazing how something as simple as a smile, a quiet moment in nature, or a thoughtful gesture can fill us with such profound peace. It's a reminder that beauty isn't always about perfection, but about connection and the moments that make life feel meaningful.

Q. No. 11) 'Beauty is best left undefined'. Support your position on this statement with your rationale coupled with ideas in the poem.

Ans. Absolutely, the idea that "beauty is best left undefined" speaks to the profound and personal nature of beauty. As you pointed out, beauty is subjective—it can evoke different emotions, interpretations, and experiences in every individual. Keats, in his works, often explores the idea of beauty as something beyond concrete definitions. In his poem "*A Thing of Beauty*," he suggests that beauty has a transformative power that transcends time, offering comfort and solace. By not confining beauty to a specific definition, we allow it to retain its depth and ability to move us in unique and unexpected ways. This open-ended view of beauty lets it be as expansive as our emotions, experiences, and perceptions.

Q. No. 12) Artists, singers, and musicians have a different perception of beauty as compared to people who are in other professions. Comment.

Ans. Artists, singers, and musicians often have a heightened sensitivity to beauty, as their work involves capturing and expressing aesthetic experiences. Their professions require a deep understanding and appreciation of beauty in various forms, making their perception more nuanced and profound than in other fields. This sensitivity allows them to create art that resonates emotionally with others.

Long Answer

We have often heard the phrase: 'Beauty is skin deep'. In spite of that, we often see people idolizing actors and celebrities who are good-looking and attractive.

You have a conversation regarding this with your friend who believes that physical beauty defines a person.

Write down that conversation.

Ans. Friend: You know, I truly believe that physical beauty defines a person. It's what attracts people and makes them idolize actors and celebrities who are good-looking and attractive. After all, we often hear the phrase "Beauty is skin deep," and it seems to hold true in our society.

You: I see where you're coming from, but I have a different view. While physical beauty might draw attention, it doesn't define someone's true worth. True beauty comes from within and is reflected in qualities like kindness and character.

Friend: But don't you think attractive people have an advantage in life? They tend to get more attention and admiration.

You: It might seem that way, but beauty fades over time. What's really important are the qualities that last, like intelligence, empathy, and compassion. These are the things that form real, meaningful connections.

Friend: I never thought about it like that. But why do people still idolize celebrities so much?

You: Celebrities are often idolized for a variety of reasons. While their appearance might contribute, it's their talent, achievements, and impact on their industry that should be admired. We should focus on the whole person, not just their external beauty.

Friend: I get it now. It's a reminder to look deeper than appearances and appreciate the inner beauty people possess.

You: Exactly! True beauty comes from within—how a person treats others and the positive difference they make in the world. That's the kind of beauty we should celebrate.

Friend: I really appreciate your perspective. This conversation has given me a lot to think about. Thanks for sharing.

You: I'm glad we could talk about it! It's always helpful to challenge the norms and think more deeply about these things.

Q. No. 17) You are a blogger who loves to record travel stories. You recently visited a picturesque location and you were enamored by its beauty.

Pen down the post for your blog giving vivid descriptions of the natural beauty of this place.

Supplement your writing with Keats' ideas about beauty.

Ans. Greetings, fellow wanderers!

Today, I am thrilled to share with you the breathtaking beauty I discovered during my recent adventure to a place that felt like it had come straight out of a fairy tale. As I explored the enchanting landscapes, I was overwhelmed by the magnificence of nature all around me.

Every step immersed me in a world of vibrant colors and intricate details, echoing Keats' ideas about the power of beauty. As I wandered, I felt firsthand that a thing of beauty truly becomes a joy forever, just as Keats said.

The rolling hills, draped in lush greenery, stretched endlessly before me. Sunlit meadows swayed with wildflowers, their vivid petals dancing in time with the soft breeze. Towering trees reached for the heavens, their branches sharing stories of ages past.

A serene river wound through the land, its crystal-clear waters mirroring the sky above. The birds filled the air with a beautiful symphony of songs, lifting my spirit with every note.

As I ventured higher, I was rewarded with a spectacular view—a majestic waterfall cascaded down, its sparkling droplets catching the sunlight. The soothing sound of the water created a peaceful melody, washing away the weight of the world.

Keats once believed that beauty could be found even in life's darkest corners, and I found his words to ring true here. Deep within rugged cliffs and secret caves, I discovered a hidden gem—a secret garden, alive with vibrant blossoms. The fragrance of the flowers mingled with the whispers of the wind, creating a sensory experience that wrapped me in pure serenity.

Every corner of this paradise was a testament to beauty. Whether it was the delicate petals of a blooming rose, the kaleidoscope of colors at sunset, or the soft touch of a butterfly's wings, beauty was ever-present.

As I left this magical haven, I carried with me the essence of its beauty—a reminder that even amidst the chaos of life, there are moments of grace and harmony. Just as Keats cherished the timeless power of beauty, this journey strengthened my belief that nature's masterpiece is an eternal gift, to be celebrated and cherished.

So, fellow explorers, remember to seek out the beauty around you. It's there, waiting to be discovered. Until our paths cross again, may your journeys be filled with wonder, and may the beauty you encounter leave an unforgettable mark on your soul.

Happy trails!

A Roadside Stand

Short Answer

Though money holds the same value everywhere, the poet draws a distinction between city money and country money. Elaborate.

Ans. In the poem "A Roadside Stand" by Robert Frost, the poet contrasts city money with country money, highlighting the differences in how each is earned and spent. While money holds the same intrinsic value everywhere, Frost suggests that in the city, wealth is accumulated through impersonal,

complex transactions that distance individuals from the true essence of earning. City money is linked to systems and structures that are far removed from personal connection.

In contrast, country money is earned through the sweat of one's brow, often from direct, hard work and personal interactions with others. The poet implies that money in the countryside is tied to a more genuine, human touch—a sense of community and simplicity. The labor involved in earning it is more direct, and the transactions are often more personal, reflecting a lifestyle rooted in the earth and in closer human bonds.

Frost seems to critique the dehumanized nature of city wealth, contrasting it with the authentic, hardworking spirit of the rural life, where money is earned with tangible effort and meaningful relationships.

Q. No. 11) The roadside stand and the moving cars are a contrast around which the entire poem is woven. Expound.

Ans. In "*A Roadside Stand*" by Robert Frost, the contrast between the roadside stand and the moving cars is a central theme that underscores the clash between rural simplicity and the impersonal nature of modern life. The roadside stand symbolizes a traditional, fixed way of life in the countryside, where people live close to nature and maintain a sense of community and personal connection. It represents a slower, more deliberate pace, grounded in the simplicity of rural existence.

On the other hand, the moving cars symbolize the fast-paced, modern, and often impersonal city life. The cars speed by without stopping, just as the busy, modern world moves forward, indifferent to the slower, simpler ways of life that exist outside urban centers. This stark difference between the two highlights the tension between tradition and progress, with the poet reflecting on how the changing times are eroding the simplicity and authenticity of rural life.

Through this contrast, Frost mourns the loss of rural innocence and laments how progress, represented by the speeding cars, often overlooks or ignores the values and beauty found in the traditional ways of the countryside.

Q. No. 12) Comment on the significance of the symbol of the car in the poem.

Ans. In "*A Roadside Stand*," the car symbolizes urbanization, modernity, and progress, contrasting with the traditional rural life represented by the roadside stand. The car's speed and detachment highlight the impact of urbanization on the simplicity and authenticity of the countryside, emphasizing the loss of traditional values as modern life encroaches on rural communities.

Q. No. 13) Does the poet reach a conclusive solution for the issue at hand? Discuss.

Ans. You're absolutely right. In "*A Roadside Stand*," Robert Frost does not offer a clear solution to the issue of urbanization and its effects on rural life. Instead, the poem presents a stark contrast between the roadside stand—representing rural simplicity—and the moving cars—symbolizing the rapid, impersonal urbanization. Through these contrasting images, Frost invites readers to reflect on the broader societal changes and the loss of traditional values, without providing a definitive answer or resolution. The poem encourages contemplation on the complexities of progress and the impact of modernization, leaving the reader to grapple with these issues on their own.

Long Answer

Imagine a car stops and actually buys from the roadside stand.

Keeping in mind the reaction you think the peasants would have, write a diary entry as the farmer describing not only your immediate experience but also your after-thoughts on being able to earn “city money”.

You may begin this way:

Wednesday, 2nd March XX 9 PM

We had an unexpectedly good day today!...

Ans. Wednesday, 2nd March XX 9 PM

What a beautiful reflection on a day full of hope, yet tempered with the awareness of reality. Your words capture the bittersweet feeling of a fleeting moment of success, reminding us how a single encounter can offer both joy and uncertainty. The contrast between the city dweller and the rural life you lead is powerful, showing how distant worlds can momentarily intersect in unexpected ways.

The excitement of receiving "city money" feels like a small victory, but, as you said, it doesn't promise lasting change. The underlying uncertainty, the fear that it could just be a brief encounter, is palpable. Yet, your optimism shines through—this day is a reminder that hope, no matter how small, can be a spark for something greater.

It's a poignant reminder that true change requires more than chance moments; it needs perseverance and solidarity. Your reflection is both a celebration of small victories and a call to keep striving for more, even in the face of uncertainty.

Imagine a child from the farmer’s family migrates to the city for their education. As the child, write back to your family telling them whether you would or would not want to turn into a city person. Use the context of the poem “A Roadside Stand” in mind to pen down this letter.

You may begin this way:

12, Davidson County

23 January 'XX

Dear mom

I have been thinking about the roadside stall lately. Now that I find myself surrounded by city-people all the time, I think.....

With love

Jennifer

Ans.

Dear Jennifer,

Your letter is a beautiful reflection of your journey and the emotions that come with the transition from the simplicity of village life to the fast-paced rhythm of the city. It's clear that, even as you embrace the opportunities that city life offers, the memories of our roadside stand hold a special place in your heart.

Your words capture the contrast between the two worlds: the busy, sometimes lonely, city and the warmth and authenticity of the countryside. The bustling streets and the endless chase of city dwellers may seem exciting at first, but as you've wisely observed, they often mask the deeper struggles that lie beneath the surface.

It's heartening to see how you are cherishing the lessons and growth that the city offers, while never forgetting the value of human connection and the sense of belonging we shared back at the stand. I can sense your desire to bring the knowledge you gain back to our community, and I have no doubt that you will make a difference.

While city life may provide material comforts and opportunities, I hope you remember that true happiness often lies in the bonds we form and the authenticity of the life we live. We're proud of you and your aspirations, and we look forward to seeing how you'll use your experiences to enrich both your life and ours.

Take care and keep in touch. Your letters always remind me of the beauty of our shared past and the promise of a bright future.

With all my love, Mom

Aunt Jennifer's Tigers

Short Answer

Read the given quote. In your opinion, what silence does the poem 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' break?

Every poem breaks a silence that had to be overcome. – Adrienne Rich

Ans. In "Aunt Jennifer's Tigers," Adrienne Rich highlights the oppression of women in a patriarchal society. Through Aunt Jennifer's creation of powerful tigers, Rich contrasts their strength with Aunt Jennifer's own vulnerability and fear, symbolizing the limitations placed on women. The poem calls for recognition of these societal injustices and emphasizes the need for a more equitable world for women, where they can live freely and without oppression.

Would you say that the poem ends on a note of hope? Justify your opinion.

Ans. yes, you're right. The third stanza in "Aunt Jennifer's Tigers" offers a sense of hope by emphasizing the enduring strength and courage of the tigers she created. While Aunt Jennifer is trapped in a life of fear and oppression, her artwork—a symbol of power and freedom—remains. The final line poignantly highlights that although Aunt Jennifer cannot experience this freedom herself, her tigers will live on as symbols of strength and defiance. This contrast underscores the poem's message about the enduring legacy of women's resilience, even if they don't always see it manifest in their own lives.

Long Answer

Read the given extract from an article published in The Independent:

“Turn your pain into art”: it’s a phrase most of us have heard before... The theory that achieving something great requires suffering dates back to ancient times... Pain, however, is less an artistic necessity and more a result of “contagion” – a term used for the spreading of a harmful idea or practice...In the context of the struggling artist, it allows mental illness to fester; to be glamorized and admired; even encouraged in the name of art.

i. Do you think Aunt Jennifer “turned her pain into art”? What kind of “contagion” might her pain be a result of?

ii. Evaluate Aunt Jennifer and her artistry in light of the above extract.

Ans. i. Absolutely, your interpretation captures the essence of Adrienne Rich's poem beautifully. Aunt Jennifer's ability to "turn her pain into art" showcases the empowering role that creativity can play, especially for those oppressed by societal norms. Through her tapestry, Aunt Jennifer is able to express her longing for freedom and strength, which she may not experience in her own life. The tigers symbolize this desired strength and liberation—a sharp contrast to her own subdued existence under patriarchal control.

The "contagion" of her pain, stemming from the patriarchal system, is a crucial insight. It highlights the cycle of oppression that many women endure, unable to express their true selves or attain their full potential. Yet, as you pointed out, Aunt Jennifer is more than just a victim—she is a survivor, using art as a way to reclaim some sense of agency and power. Her tigers are not only a reflection of her desires but also a testament to her resilience, even if she doesn't experience these qualities in her personal life.

Aunt Jennifer's art, then, becomes an enduring legacy of strength and empowerment, one that outlasts her personal suffering. The creation of the tigers symbolizes hope, not only for her but also for women struggling in similar circumstances. It speaks to the power of art to offer solace and even a form of liberation, transforming pain into something beautiful and enduring.

Furthermore, as you mentioned, Aunt Jennifer's work challenges the idea that great art must come from a place of happiness or peace. In her case, her pain is the catalyst for her creativity, and the tigers—symbols of freedom and strength—become her act of defiance and resilience. In this sense, the poem is not just a critique of patriarchal oppression, but also an affirmation of the transformative power of art, especially for those who have been silenced or marginalized.

Q. No. 18) Imagine that Aunt Jennifer read the poem that Adrienne Rich wrote about

Every poem breaks a silence that had to be overcome. - Adrienne Rich.

After much contemplation, she decided to write a letter to her husband expressing her feelings and thoughts. Write the letter as Aunt Jennifer.

Ans. Dearest Husband,

I have just read a poem by Adrienne Rich, titled "Aunt Jennifer's Tigers," and it has struck a chord deep within me. The poem speaks of a woman, Aunt Jennifer, who is confined within a marriage where her

strength and potential are stifled. She creates a tapestry of tigers—powerful, free, and unafraid—which symbolize the strength and freedom she longs for but is unable to experience in her own life.

As I read the poem, I couldn't help but think of myself. Much like Aunt Jennifer, I feel trapped in this marriage. I am here, existing within the boundaries of your expectations, unable to express who I truly am, unable to live to my fullest potential. I know you love me, but sometimes it feels like you see me only through the lens of your possession, as your wife, not as the person I am—someone with dreams, desires, and creativity. In reading Aunt Jennifer's story, I realized how important it is for me to be seen—

not just as a wife, but

as an individual with a voice, with ambitions, with a life beyond our home. I need to be seen for the strength that resides in me, the same strength I am trying to hold on to, even as I struggle to break free from the limitations of this marriage. I want to be heard. I want you to recognize me for who I truly am. I'm not asking for anything extreme or unreasonable. I do not wish to leave you or abandon our life together. What I ask for is understanding—a shift in how you see me. I want you to see me as a partner, not as a mere accessory. I want the freedom to express myself, to achieve something greater, and to be celebrated for my individuality.

If you cannot see me this way, then I fear I will have to take steps to free myself. I must create my own tigers, as Aunt Jennifer did, and find a way to live fully as I am, to break free from this silence and to find my strength. I hope you can understand what I'm saying and that you'll listen. This isn't just about me—

it's about us,

about the space we need to truly grow, both together and individually.

With love, Aunt Jennifer

