

UP Board Class 12 English 2026 (Set 316 BV) Question Paper with Solutions



General Instructions

- (i)** This booklet contains 12 questions, each provided with a complete, step-by-step solution.
- (ii)** It comprises 5 single-correct multiple-choice questions.
- (iii)** Attempt each question on your own before reviewing the given solution.

1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

Gandhi's great aim in life was to improve the condition of poor and suffering people, and to aid people in any way he could, but always without using force. He was against every sort of evil, no matter of what kind. When he tried to find out about the condition among poor farm workers, the people crowded around him by the hundreds. A friend had come among them, someone who wanted to help them and to them this was something new. When the police ordered Gandhi to leave the place, he refused and in the court he explained why he could not obey. Then he asked the court to punish him for breaking the law. The court did not know what verdict to give in such a case, and so let him go free. This was the first step in what came to be an important and common event in many parts of India to refuse to obey a law considered to be unjust and at the same time calmly to accept any punishment that might be given and never to retaliate.

- a) What was Gandhi's great aim in life? (2)
- b) How did Gandhi help the poor and suffering people? (2)
- c) Why did the farm workers crowd around him? (2)
- d) Why did the police order Gandhi to leave the place? (2)
- e) i) Which word in the passage means 'quietly'? (2)
ii) Write the opposite for 'punishment'. (2)
iii) Rewrite the underlined segment after replacing 'verdict' with another similar meaning word. (3)

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: a) Gandhi's aim:

Gandhi's great aim in life was to improve the condition of poor and

suffering people and to help them in every possible way, but always without using force.

Step 2: b) How he helped them:

He helped the poor by personally going among them (the poor farm workers), listening to their problems, standing by them as a friend, and working for their welfare without ever resorting to violence.

Step 3: c) Why the workers crowded around him:

The farm workers crowded around him in the hundreds because a friend — someone genuinely willing to help them — had come among them for the first time, and this concern for their welfare from an outsider was something entirely new to them.

Step 4: d) Why the police ordered him to leave:

The police ordered Gandhi to leave because his presence among the farm workers and his enquiry into their condition were seen as a challenge to the prevailing (unjust) order, and the authorities wanted to stop him from organising or encouraging the workers.

Step 5: e) i) Word meaning 'quietly':

The word is '**calmly**' — used in the passage as 'calmly to accept any punishment'.

Step 6: e) ii) Opposite of 'punishment':

The opposite of 'punishment' is '**reward**'.

Step 7: e) iii) Rewriting with a synonym for 'verdict':

'Verdict' can be replaced with 'judgment' or 'decision'. Rewritten: "*The court did not know what judgment to give in such a case, and so let him go free.*"

Final Answer:

a) Improve the condition of the poor. b) Helped them without using force. c) A friend had come to help them. d) His presence challenged the authorities. e) i) calmly ii) reward iii) "The court did not know what judgment to give in such a case, and so let him go free."

Quick Tip: Locate each answer directly in the passage text.

2. Write an article on the topic 'The Problem of Unemployment' in about 100–150 words.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:**Step 1: Introduction:**

Unemployment remains one of the gravest socio-economic problems facing India today, affecting millions of educated and uneducated youth alike.

Step 2: Causes:

Rapid population growth, a mismatch between the education system and market demands, slow industrial growth, and over-dependence on agriculture are the chief causes of unemployment in the country.

Step 3: Effects:

Unemployment breeds poverty, frustration among the youth, a rise in crime rates, and a general sense of hopelessness that can destabilise society.

Step 4: Remedies:

Promoting skill-development programmes, encouraging entrepreneurship through schemes like Start-up India, expanding the manufacturing sector, and reforming education to make it employment-oriented can significantly reduce unemployment.

Final Answer:

Unemployment is a problem that demands coordinated action from the government, industry, and educational institutions; only a skill-based, employment-oriented approach can solve it in the long run.

OR

Write an article on the topic 'New Education Policy' in about 100–150 words.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:**Step 1: Introduction:**

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 marks a landmark reform in India's education system after nearly three decades, aiming to make learning holistic and flexible.

Step 2: Key features:

It replaces the rigid 10+2 structure with a 5+3+3+4 system, introduces multiple entry-exit options in higher education, promotes mother-tongue instruction till at least Class 5, and emphasises vocational skills from an early age.

Step 3: Benefits:

The policy reduces the burden of rote learning, encourages critical thinking, and allows students greater flexibility to choose subjects across streams.

Step 4: Challenges:

Successful implementation will require large-scale teacher training, infrastructure upgrades, and adequate funding, especially in rural schools.

Final Answer:

The New Education Policy has the potential to transform Indian education if implemented with genuine commitment at every level, from the classroom to the ministry.

OR

Write an article on the topic 'Digital India' in about 100–150 words.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Introduction:

Launched in 2015, the Digital India programme aims to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy.

Step 2: Key initiatives:

Programmes like Aadhaar-linked services, UPI for digital payments, e-governance portals, and the spread of affordable internet through BharatNet have brought government services and financial transactions to the fingertips of ordinary citizens.

Step 3: Benefits:

Digital India has reduced corruption through direct benefit transfers, made banking accessible to rural populations, and empowered small businesses through online marketplaces.

Step 4: Challenges:

The digital divide between urban and rural India, along with concerns about data privacy and cyber security, remain areas that need continuous attention.

Final Answer:

Digital India has fundamentally changed how citizens interact with government and commerce, and bridging the remaining digital divide will determine how inclusive this transformation ultimately becomes.



3. Write a letter to the Principal of your college to complain against the shortage of books in the college library.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Format:

A formal letter follows the standard format: sender's address, date, receiver's designation and address, subject line, salutation, body, and complimentary close.

Step 2: Letter:

The Principal,
Government Inter College,
Lucknow.

Subject: Complaint regarding shortage of books in the college library

Respected Sir/Madam,

I, Ravi Kumar, a student of Class XII, wish to bring to your kind notice the acute shortage of books in our college library. Several prescribed textbooks and reference books, especially for Science and Commerce streams, are either not available in sufficient copies or are missing altogether. This is seriously hampering our preparation for the upcoming Board examinations.

I request you to kindly direct the library staff to procure additional copies of the required textbooks and reference materials at the earliest so that all students can benefit equally.

Thanking you,

Yours obediently,

Ravi Kumar

Class XII 'B'

Final Answer:

A complete formal complaint letter addressed to the Principal, stating the problem clearly and requesting corrective action.

OR

Write a letter to the Editor of a daily newspaper describing the flood scene in your locality.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Format:

A letter to the editor follows a formal format and is meant for publication, so it should be concise, factual, and highlight the issue for public attention.

Step 2: Letter:

The Editor,
Dainik Jagran,
Lucknow.

Subject: The devastating flood situation in our locality

Sir,

Through the columns of your esteemed newspaper, I wish to draw the attention of the authorities to the severe flooding in our locality, Rajapur, caused by the recent heavy rains and the overflowing of the nearby river. Several houses have been submerged, roads are impassable, and many families have been forced to take shelter on rooftops or in relief camps.

Despite repeated appeals, relief material and medical aid have been slow to reach the affected areas. I request the district administration to expedite rescue operations, ensure a steady supply of clean drinking water and food, and take up permanent flood-control measures before the next monsoon.

Thanking you,
Yours faithfully,

Suresh Chandra
Rajapur

Final Answer:

A complete formal letter to the editor describing the flood, its impact, and an appeal for urgent relief and long-term flood control.

4(a). Which of the following underlined words is a synonym of 'suggestive'?

- (A) We have sufficient information about the thief.
- (B) My friend has plentiful sum of money.
- (C) The judge found significant changes in his behaviour.
- (D) He looks vibrant.

Correct Answer: (C) The judge found significant changes in his behaviour.

Solution:

Step 1: Meaning of 'suggestive':

'Suggestive' means indicating or hinting at something meaningful, i.e. carrying importance or implication.

Step 2: Option A — sufficient:

'Sufficient' means 'enough in quantity' — this relates to adequacy, not to hinting at meaning, so it is not a match.

Step 3: Option B — plentiful:

'Plentiful' means 'abundant' — again a quantity word, unrelated to

'suggestive'.

Step 4: Option C — significant:

'Significant' means 'having a noticeable or important meaning/implication' — this is the closest match to 'suggestive', which also implies something meaningful is being indicated.

Step 5: Option D — vibrant:

'Vibrant' means 'full of energy or colour' — unrelated to 'suggestive'.

Final Answer:

(C) significant — closest in meaning to 'suggestive'.



4(b). Which of the following is a pair of antonyms?

- (A) Pass — Succeed
- (B) Honest — Truthful
- (C) Intelligent — Brilliant
- (D) Failure — Success

Correct Answer: (D) Failure — Success

Solution:

Step 1: Check each pair:

Antonyms are words with opposite meanings; synonyms are words with similar meanings.

Step 2: A) Pass — Succeed:

Both words mean roughly the same thing (to accomplish/clear) — these are synonyms, not antonyms.

Step 3: B) Honest — Truthful:

Both describe the same quality of sincerity — synonyms.

Step 4: C) Intelligent — Brilliant:

Both describe high mental ability — synonyms.

Step 5: D) Failure — Success:

'Failure' (not achieving a goal) is the direct opposite of 'Success' (achieving a goal) — this is a genuine antonym pair.

Final Answer:

(D) Failure — Success is the only antonym pair.



4(c). 'To die in harness' means

- (A) Premeditated murder
- (B) Dying young in an accident
- (C) To die while in service
- (D) To be taken by surprise

Correct Answer: (C) To die while in service

Solution:

Step 1: Idiom origin:

'In harness' refers to a working animal (like a horse) still fitted with its harness, i.e. still actively working.

Step 2: Applying the idiom:

'To die in harness' therefore means to die while still actively working

or in service, rather than after retirement.

Step 3: Eliminating other options:

Options A, B, and D describe unrelated situations (murder, accidental death, surprise) that have no connection to the 'harness' (working) imagery.

Final Answer:

(C) To die while in service is the correct meaning.



4(d). 'A foreigner who settles in another country' is

- (A) Immigrant
- (B) Emigrant
- (C) Alien
- (D) Visitor

Correct Answer: (A) Immigrant

Solution:

Step 1: Immigrant vs Emigrant:

An 'emigrant' is someone who LEAVES their own country to settle elsewhere (viewed from the country they left); an 'immigrant' is someone who SETTLES IN a new country (viewed from the country they arrive in).

Step 2: Matching the definition:

The question describes settling IN another country, which matches 'immigrant' exactly.

Step 3: Why not the others:

'Alien' is a broader legal term for any foreign national, not specifically one who has 'settled'; 'visitor' implies a temporary stay, not settling permanently.

Final Answer:

(A) Immigrant.



4(e). Which of the following sentences is incorrect?

- (A) A number of questions has been set
- (B) Heaps of sand are lying on the bank
- (C) Mathematics is a difficult subject
- (D) There are still lot to decide

Correct Answer: (A) A number of questions has been set

Solution:**Step 1: Rule: 'a number of':**

'A number of' (meaning 'several') is always followed by a PLURAL verb, e.g. 'a number of questions HAVE been set' — not 'has'.

Step 2: Checking option A:

'A number of questions has been set' wrongly uses the singular verb 'has' — this sentence is grammatically incorrect.

Step 3: Checking option B:

'Heaps' is plural and takes the plural verb 'are' — this is correct.

Step 4: Checking option C:

'Mathematics' is one of the subject names that, despite ending in '-s', is treated as singular and correctly takes 'is' — this is correct.

Step 5: A note on option D:

'There are still lot to decide' is also imperfectly worded (it should read 'a lot'), but the single clearest, most classically-tested error in this set is option A's number–verb mismatch, which is the intended answer.

Final Answer:

(A) 'A number of questions has been set' is incorrect — it should be 'have been set'.



5(a). Change into indirect narration: My friend said to me, "Please help me."

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Rule for imperative sentences:

An imperative sentence (a request/command) in direct speech is reported using 'to' + the base verb, and the reporting verb changes to 'requested' for a polite request (signalled by 'Please').

Step 2: Applying the rule:

Direct: My friend said to me, "Please help me."

Indirect: My friend requested me to help him/her.

Final Answer:

My friend requested me to help him/her.

OR

Change into indirect narration: The guard said to the visitor, "Who are you and why have you come here?"

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Rule for interrogative sentences:

A Wh-question in direct speech is reported using the reporting verb 'asked', with the question word retained but the sentence changed to statement word order (no auxiliary inversion) and the tense shifted back.

Step 2: Applying the rule:

Direct: The guard said to the visitor, "Who are you and why have you come here?"

Indirect: The guard asked the visitor who he was and why he had come there.

Final Answer:

The guard asked the visitor who he was and why he had come there.

5(b). Combine into a Simple sentence: You are very weak. You cannot work hard.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Method:

Two simple sentences can be combined into one simple sentence by converting one clause into a participial phrase or a prepositional phrase, removing the extra finite verb.

Step 2: Applying the method:

'You are very weak' becomes the phrase 'Being very weak', which modifies the main clause 'You cannot work hard'.

Final Answer:

Being very weak, you cannot work hard.

OR

Combine into a Complex sentence: He is poor. He is not dishonest.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:**Step 1: Method:**

A complex sentence needs one main clause and one subordinate clause joined by a subordinating conjunction. 'Though'/'Although' is used to show contrast between two facts about the same subject.

Step 2: Applying the method:

'He is poor' becomes the subordinate clause 'Though he is poor', joined to the main clause 'he is not dishonest'.

Final Answer:

Though he is poor, he is not dishonest.

5(c). Change into Passive voice: Why have you not completed your work?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Rule:

For a present-perfect interrogative sentence, the passive form is:
Question word + has/have + not + been + past participle + by + subject?

Step 2: Identifying parts:

Subject = 'you'; verb = 'have completed'; object = 'your work'. In passive voice, 'your work' becomes the new subject.

Step 3: Applying the rule:

'Why have you not completed your work?' → 'Why has your work not been completed by you?'

Final Answer:

Why has your work not been completed by you?

OR

Change into Positive degree: Iron is the most useful metal.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Rule:

A superlative degree sentence ('the most useful') is converted to positive degree using the pattern: 'No other + noun + is as + adjective + as + subject'.

Step 2: Applying the rule:

'Iron is the most useful metal' → 'No other metal is as useful as iron.'

Final Answer:

No other metal is as useful as iron.



5(d). Correct the sentence: My friend is senior than I.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Identifying the errors:

Two errors: (i) 'senior' is a Latin-origin comparative adjective and is followed by 'to', not 'than'; (ii) after a preposition ('to'), the object form of the pronoun ('me') is required, not the subject form ('I').

Step 2: Correcting both errors:

'senior than I' → 'senior to me'.

Final Answer:

My friend is senior to me.

OR

Correct the sentence: No sooner the train stopped than I got down.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Rule:

'No sooner...than' requires the past perfect tense in the first clause, and the auxiliary verb must be inverted (placed before the subject) — 'No sooner had + subject + past participle'.

Step 2: Correcting the sentence:

'No sooner the train stopped' lacks both the past perfect and the inversion; it should read 'No sooner had the train stopped'.

Final Answer:

No sooner had the train stopped than I got down.



5(e). Use the pair 'Affect — Effect' in your own sentences to make the difference in their meanings clear.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:**Step 1: Meaning distinction:**

'Affect' is usually a VERB meaning 'to influence'; 'Effect' is usually a NOUN meaning 'the result of an action'.

Step 2: Sentence with 'Affect':

The loud noise from the construction site did not affect his concentration during the exam.

Step 3: Sentence with 'Effect':

The new medicine had a positive effect on the patient's health.

Final Answer:

Affect (verb): The loud noise did not affect his concentration.

Effect (noun): The medicine had a positive effect on his health.

OR

Use the pair 'Pain — Pane' in your own sentences to make the difference in their meanings clear.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Meaning distinction:

'Pain' means physical or emotional suffering; 'Pane' means a single sheet of glass, typically in a window.

Step 2: Sentence with 'Pain':

She felt a sharp pain in her leg after the fall.

Step 3: Sentence with 'Pane':

The pane of the window was shattered by the storm.

Final Answer:

Pain (suffering): She felt a sharp pain in her leg. **Pane (glass sheet):** The pane of the window was shattered by the storm.

6. Translate the following passage into English: सही शिक्षा का वास्तविक ध्येय हमारे बौद्धिक स्तर को उठाना है। बौद्धिक स्तर को उठाने का अर्थ विद्यार्थी के मस्तिष्क में दुनिया भर के तथ्य और आँकड़े भरना नहीं है, बल्कि उसे इस योग्य बनाना है कि वह दूसरे के दृष्टिकोण को ठीक प्रकार से समझ सके। साथ ही शिक्षा का ध्येय मौलिक चिन्तन की क्षमता विकसित करना है। सच्ची शिक्षा हमें यह सिखाती है कि हम किस प्रकार दूसरे के दृष्टिकोण से समझौता करें और किस प्रकार अपने विचारों को दूसरों के समक्ष प्रस्तुत करें।

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Translating sentence by sentence:

Rendering each Hindi sentence into natural, grammatically correct English while preserving the original meaning exactly.

Step 2: Full translation:

The real aim of true education is to raise our intellectual level. Raising the intellectual level does not mean filling the student's mind with facts and figures from all over the world; rather, it means making him capable of properly understanding another person's point of view. At the same time, the aim of education is to develop the capacity for original thinking. True education teaches us how to reconcile ourselves with another person's point of view and how to present our own ideas before others.

Final Answer:

See the full translation above — it preserves the original meaning sentence by sentence.

7(a). What was the condition of Franz when his name was called in the class? (from 'The Last Lesson')

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Context:

In 'The Last Lesson' by Alphonse Daudet, Franz arrives late to school expecting the usual noisy classroom and a scolding from M. Hamel for not having learnt his lesson on participles.

Step 2: His condition when called:

When M. Hamel gently called on Franz to recite and he could not, Franz felt deeply ashamed and wished the earth would swallow him up. He was overwhelmed with regret for having wasted time birds'-nesting and skating instead of studying, especially on realising this was the very last French lesson.

Final Answer:

Franz felt ashamed, sorry, and full of regret for his past carelessness when he could not recite his lesson and learnt it was M. Hamel's last French class.

OR

Why did Saheb's family migrate to India? (from 'Lost Spring')

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Context:

'Lost Spring' by Anees Jung describes the life of Saheb-e-Alam, a

ragpicker boy in Seemapuri, a slum on the outskirts of Delhi.

Step 2: Reason for migration:

Saheb's family had migrated from Dhaka in Bangladesh, having left their homes and fields behind after storms and floods repeatedly destroyed their green fields, leaving them with nothing to survive on. They came to India in search of a means of livelihood.

Final Answer:

Saheb's family migrated to India because natural disasters (storms and floods) had destroyed their fields in Bangladesh, forcing them to seek a livelihood elsewhere.



7(b). What did the author think when he was drowning in deep water?
(from 'Deep Water')

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Context:

In 'Deep Water' by William Douglas, the author, as a boy, nearly drowned in the YMCA swimming pool when a bigger boy threw him into the deep end.

Step 2: His thoughts while drowning:

As he sank, he was gripped by sheer terror. He thought he was going to die and that his short life was flashing before him. He desperately tried to reach the surface, but each time he came up, he sank again, swallowing more water, and eventually he lost consciousness, feeling as though everything had gone limp and dark — a total, paralysing

fear that stayed with him for years afterward.

Final Answer:

He thought he was about to die; he was consumed by terror and a desperate, failed struggle to reach the surface before losing consciousness.

OR

Why do you think that the peddler was a great philosopher? (from 'The Rattrap')

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Context:

In 'The Rattrap' by Selma Lagerlöf, the peddler sees the whole world as a giant rattrap, with riches, joys, and comforts as tempting bait that ensnare people.

Step 2: Why he can be called a philosopher:

The peddler's rattrap analogy is a genuine, original philosophy of life — he observes that just as a rat is tempted into a trap by cheese, human beings are lured into traps of greed, comfort, and desire, only to lose their freedom. This is a profound, insightful way of understanding human nature and temptation, showing that despite his poverty and lack of formal education, he possessed genuine wisdom about life.

Final Answer:

He can be called a great philosopher because his simple rattrap metaphor captures a deep, universal truth about human temptation

and the loss of freedom — genuine philosophical insight born from his own hard experience of life.



8. Why do you think Gandhiji considered the Champaran episode to be a turning-point in his life? (from 'Indigo')

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Context:

'Indigo' by Louis Fischer describes Gandhiji's first major act of civil disobedience in India, when he went to Champaran in Bihar in 1917 to investigate the exploitation of indigo sharecroppers by British planters.

Step 2: Why it was a turning point:

In Champaran, Gandhiji, for the first time in India, deliberately defied an unjust British order to leave the district, and chose to accept the legal consequences peacefully rather than obey. The court ultimately withdrew the case against him. This showed both Gandhiji and the Indian people that civil disobedience — calm, non-violent defiance of unjust laws — could succeed against colonial authority.

Step 3: Its lasting significance:

Champaran was Gandhiji's first experiment with the tools of Satyagraha and non-cooperation on Indian soil, which he would go on to use throughout the freedom struggle. It also marked the beginning of his direct engagement with the Indian peasantry's real problems, shaping his future approach to the independence movement.

Final Answer:

Champan was a turning point because it was Gandhiji's first successful use of civil disobedience in India, proving that non-violent defiance could work and setting the template for the entire freedom movement that followed.

OR

Do you think that the title of the story 'Going Places' by A. R. Barton is appropriate? Explain.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:**Step 1: Context:**

'Going Places' follows Sophie, a working-class teenage girl who dreams of a glamorous future — owning a boutique, becoming an actress, or marrying the famous footballer Danny Casey, whom she claims to have met.

Step 2: Literal and ironic meaning of the title:

On the surface, 'Going Places' suggests ambition and moving forward in life towards success. However, the story is deeply ironic: Sophie never actually 'goes' anywhere in reality — her dreams remain pure fantasy, disconnected from her working-class circumstances, and she ends the story waiting alone by the canal for a meeting with Danny Casey that will never happen.

Step 3: Why it fits:

The title is therefore appropriate precisely because of this irony — it captures both Sophie's aspiration to 'go places' in life and the sad reality that she is, in fact, going nowhere, trapped by class and

circumstance in a cycle of empty daydreaming.

Final Answer:

Yes, the title is appropriate — it works ironically, contrasting Sophie's dreams of 'going places' with her actual entrapment in an unchanging, unglamorous reality.



9. Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions that follow (from 'Keeping Quiet' by Pablo Neruda):

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.

- a) What do we lose in our single-minded desire? (2)
- b) What is the 'sadness' that the poet talks about? (2)
- c) How are we threatening ourselves? (2)

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Context:

In 'Keeping Quiet', Pablo Neruda urges humanity to pause its restless activity for a moment of stillness and introspection.

Step 2: a) What we lose:

In our single-minded obsession with keeping life constantly busy and

moving, we lose the opportunity for stillness, self-reflection, and genuine understanding of ourselves and our actions.

Step 3: b) The 'sadness':

The 'sadness' refers to humanity's tragic failure to ever truly understand itself — we remain trapped in constant activity, never pausing to reflect, which leaves us emotionally and spiritually disconnected from our own inner lives.

Step 4: c) How we threaten ourselves:

We threaten ourselves with death through our relentless, aggressive activity — symbolised elsewhere in the poem by wars, machines, and exploitation of nature — which pushes humanity toward self-destruction rather than harmony.

Final Answer:

a) The chance for stillness and self-understanding. b) The sadness of never understanding ourselves. c) Through our restless, destructive activity (wars, exploitation) that pushes us towards our own destruction.



10. Write the central idea of the poem 'Keeping Quiet'.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Theme:

Pablo Neruda's 'Keeping Quiet' calls upon all humanity to pause, momentarily, from its ceaseless activity — including wars, work, and exploitation — and observe a period of stillness and introspection.

Step 2: Message:

The poet is not advocating total inactivity or death, but a brief, healing silence that would allow humans to reflect on their lives, feel a sense of common humanity across differences, and reconnect with nature and themselves before resuming life with a renewed, more conscious purpose.

Final Answer:

The central idea is a call for a moment of universal stillness and self-reflection, so humanity can pause its destructive restlessness and rediscover harmony with itself and nature.

OR

Write the central idea of the poem 'A Thing of Beauty'.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:**Step 1: Theme:**

John Keats's 'A Thing of Beauty' (an extract from 'Endymion') asserts that beauty in the world — in nature, in stories, in human bonds — is a permanent source of joy that never fades and continually renews our spirit.

Step 2: Message:

Amidst life's despondence, sorrow, and hardship — the 'inhuman dearth of noble natures', the gloom of daily struggles — beautiful things like the sun, moon, trees, daffodils, and simple human affections act as an 'endless fountain of immortal drink', lifting the human spirit and connecting us to something eternal beyond our

mortal lives.

Final Answer:

The central idea is that beauty in nature and human life is an everlasting source of joy that keeps despair at bay and elevates the human spirit, binding us to the earth in a beautiful, healing way.

OR

Write the central idea of the poem 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers'.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Theme:

Adrienne Rich's 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' contrasts the bold, free tigers that Aunt Jennifer embroiders on a panel with her own timid, oppressed existence as a married woman burdened by 'the massive weight of Uncle's wedding band'.

Step 2: Message:

The poem is a feminist statement on the suppression of women's individuality and freedom within a patriarchal marriage — while Aunt Jennifer herself remains fearful and trapped even in death (her hands are 'still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by'), the tigers she creates will remain proud and unafraid forever, symbolising the creative freedom and strength she could never express in her own life.

Final Answer:

The central idea is the contrast between a woman's real-life oppression within marriage and the fearless freedom she can only

express through her art — the enduring tigers outliving her own constrained existence.



11(a). How is the Grand Central Station a symbol of escape? (from 'The Third Level')

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Context:

In 'The Third Level' by Jack Finney, Charley, the narrator, claims to have discovered a mysterious third level at Grand Central Station that leads back to the year 1894.

Step 2: Why it symbolises escape:

Grand Central Station, with its vast, maze-like network of tunnels and levels, becomes a symbol of escape from the tension, anxiety, and complexity of modern life. Charley — anxious, insecure, and worn out by the pressures of the present — imagines/finds a 'third level' that leads to a calmer, simpler past, representing an escape into nostalgia rather than a literal, physical place.

Final Answer:

The Grand Central Station symbolises escape because its confusing, endless corridors become, in Charley's mind, a gateway out of present-day anxiety into an imagined, peaceful past.

OR

Why did the Maharaja start hunting tigers? (from 'The Tiger King')

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Context:

In 'The Tiger King' by Kalki, an astrologer predicts at the Maharaja's birth that he would one day be killed by a tiger, the hundredth tiger he hunts.

Step 2: Why he started hunting:

Determined to defy this prophecy, the Maharaja of Pratibandapuram vowed to hunt and kill one hundred tigers himself, believing that if he killed the tiger meant to kill him before it got the chance, the prophecy would be proven false and he would be safe.

Final Answer:

The Maharaja began hunting tigers to defy the astrologer's prophecy that he would be killed by the hundredth tiger, believing that killing tigers himself would prevent his predicted death.

11(b). What surprised the author most about Antarctica? (from 'Journey to the End of the Earth')

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Context:

In 'Journey to the End of the Earth' by Tishani Doshi, the author travels to Antarctica aboard the ship Akademik Shokalskiy as part of a student expedition programme.

Step 2: What surprised her most:

The author was most struck by Antarctica's geological history — that this now permanently ice-covered continent was once part of the supercontinent Gondwana, joined with India, Australia, South America, and Africa, and was once warm enough to support life. She was also struck by how starkly Antarctica reveals, through 200,000-year-old ice-core samples, the direct evidence of human-caused climate change over just the last 200 years.

Final Answer:

She was most surprised by learning Antarctica's deep geological history as part of Gondwana, and by the direct, dramatic evidence of human-driven climate change visible in its ancient ice cores.

OR

Who was Hana? How was Sadao married with her? (from 'The Enemy')

Correct Answer: —

Solution:**Step 1: Context:**

In 'The Enemy' by Pearl S. Buck, Dr. Sadao Hoki is a Japanese surgeon who once studied in America and married a Japanese woman named Hana.

Step 2: Who Hana was:

Hana was Sadao's wife — a gentle, loyal, and courageous woman who had also spent time in America before their marriage, and who fully supported Sadao's difficult decision to secretly treat and shelter a wounded American prisoner of war in their home despite the danger

to their family.

Step 3: How they married:

Sadao's father, being of an old-fashioned mindset, had arranged Hana's marriage to Sadao in the traditional Japanese way, first ensuring she was suitably trained in the customs and etiquette of their household before the wedding took place, even though both Sadao and Hana had been exposed to more liberal Western ideas of marriage during their years in America.

Final Answer:

Hana was Sadao's devoted wife, who supported him in secretly treating the wounded American soldier; their marriage was arranged in the traditional manner by Sadao's father, following customary Japanese practice despite their Western education.



12. Describe Sadao as a true doctor. (from 'The Enemy')

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Context:

In 'The Enemy', Dr. Sadao Hoki discovers a wounded American soldier washed up near his house and faces a moral conflict between his patriotic duty to report an enemy and his professional duty as a doctor to save a human life.

Step 2: His medical skill and dedication:

Sadao, trained as a surgeon in America, uses all his medical expertise to remove the bullet from the soldier's wound, clean and dress it

meticulously, and even performs a delicate second operation when the wound reopens — treating the patient with the same professional care he would give any patient, regardless of nationality.

Step 3: His moral courage as a doctor:

Despite the immense personal risk — hiding an enemy soldier during wartime could mean death for his entire family — Sadao's instinct as a healer overrides his fear and even his own initial hatred for the soldier. He cannot let a patient die under his hands, showing that his identity as a doctor ultimately transcends nationalism and personal danger.

Final Answer:

Sadao proves himself a true doctor because his commitment to saving a life — skilfully and courageously — outweighs both his fear for his family's safety and his patriotic hatred of the enemy.

OR

Give a character-sketch of Mr. Lamb on the basis of the play 'On the Face of It'.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Context:

'On the Face of It' by Susan Hill is a play about Derry, a teenage boy disfigured by acid, and Mr. Lamb, an elderly man with an artificial leg who lives alone in a garden open to all.

Step 2: His character traits:

Mr. Lamb is an optimistic, warm-hearted, and philosophical old man

who refuses to be defined by his own physical disability. Unlike others, he never pities Derry for his disfigured face; instead, he treats him as a normal, capable individual, encouraging Derry to embrace life fully rather than hide from the world out of shame or fear.

Step 3: His impact on Derry:

Through his open garden (symbolising his open mind and open heart), his stories of bees and his own accident, and his refusal to see himself as a victim, Mr. Lamb gently helps Derry begin to overcome his self-pity and fear of the world's judgment, before Mr. Lamb's own sudden death at the play's end.

Final Answer:

Mr. Lamb is portrayed as a wise, life-affirming, and compassionate old man whose own acceptance of his disability inspires Derry to face the world with courage rather than shame.