

UP Board Class 12 English 2026 (Set 316 BX) 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 question that follows:

Money plays an important role in fulfilling the basic needs of human life. It helps pave the way to various pleasures of life. But one of the most inexplicable mysteries that has puzzled the selfish rich is their failure to find happiness where they expected to find it. The bitterest disappointment that comes to people who had made fortunes is that their hard-earned wealth could not bring happiness which it promised. They find that love and affection do not feed on material things and the heart would starve in the midst of the greatest luxuries of the world. They find that money can buy all the worldly pleasures, power and pelf but has little power to satisfy the yearnings and hunger of the heart and mind. There are a number of women, living in palatial homes in this country who are starving for happiness and peace in their life. They would be ready to exchange all their luxuries for the love of a good man, without a dollar. One finds love, affection and peace in common, simple and greedless life.

(a) Where and how does money play an important role?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Understanding the Question:

The answer is drawn directly from the opening line of the passage.

Locating the Answer:

The passage states this in its very first sentence.

Quick Tip: Look at the first sentence of the passage.

1(b). Read the following passage carefully and answer the question that follows:

Money plays an important role in fulfilling the basic needs of human life. It helps pave the way to various pleasures of life. But one of the most inexplicable mysteries that has puzzled the selfish rich is their failure to find happiness where they expected to find it. The bitterest disappointment that comes to people who had made fortunes is that their hard-earned wealth could not bring happiness which it promised. They find that love and affection do not feed on material things and the heart would starve in the midst of the greatest luxuries of the world. They find that money can buy all the worldly pleasures, power and pelf but has little power to satisfy the yearnings and hunger of the heart and mind. There are a number of women, living in palatial homes in this country who are starving for happiness and peace in their life. They would be ready to exchange all their luxuries for the love of a good man, without a dollar. One finds love, affection and peace in common, simple and greedless life.

(b) What has puzzled the selfish rich?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Understanding the Question:

We need the specific 'mystery' mentioned about rich people.

Answering:

Their failure to find happiness where they expected to find it — i.e. in their wealth — has puzzled the selfish rich, since their hard-earned money could not bring the happiness it seemed to promise.

Quick Tip: Find the sentence with the word 'mystery.'

1(c). Read the following passage carefully and answer the question that follows:

Money plays an important role in fulfilling the basic needs of human life. It helps pave the way to various pleasures of life. But one of the most inexplicable mysteries that has puzzled the selfish rich is their failure to find happiness where they expected to find it. The bitterest disappointment that comes to people who had made fortunes is that their hard-earned wealth could not bring happiness which it promised. They find that love and affection do not feed on material things and the heart would starve in the midst of the greatest luxuries of the world. They find that money can buy all the worldly pleasures, power and pelf but has little power to satisfy the yearnings and hunger of the heart and mind. There are a number of women, living in palatial homes in this country who are starving for happiness and peace in their life. They would be ready to exchange all their luxuries for the love of a good man, without a dollar. One finds love, affection and peace in common, simple and greedless life.

(c) How does money fail to bring happiness in life?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Understanding the Question:

The passage explains this across several sentences in the middle.

Answering:

Money can buy worldly pleasures, power, and pelf, but love and affection do not feed on material things — the heart starves even amid the greatest luxuries, because money has little power to satisfy the yearnings and hunger of the heart and mind.

Quick Tip: Think about what love and affection 'do not feed on.'

1(d). Read the following passage carefully and answer the question that follows:

Money plays an important role in fulfilling the basic needs of human life. It helps pave the way to various pleasures of life. But one of the most inexplicable mysteries that has puzzled the selfish rich is their failure to find happiness where they expected to find it. The bitterest disappointment that comes to people who had made fortunes is that their hard-earned wealth could not bring happiness which it promised. They find that love and affection do not feed on material things and the heart would starve in the midst of the greatest luxuries of the world. They find that money can buy all the worldly pleasures, power and pelf but has little power to satisfy the yearnings and hunger of the heart and mind. There are a number of women, living in palatial homes in this country who are starving for happiness and peace in their life. They would be ready to exchange all their luxuries for the love of a good man, without a dollar. One finds love, affection and peace in common, simple and greedless life.

(d) Where does one find love, affection and peace?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Understanding the Question:

The answer is the passage's closing sentence.

Answering:

One finds love, affection and peace in a common, simple and greedless life.

Quick Tip: Look at the last line of the passage.

1(e)(i). Read the following passage carefully and answer the question that follows:

Money plays an important role in fulfilling the basic needs of human life. It helps pave the way to various pleasures of life. But one of the most inexplicable mysteries that has puzzled the selfish rich is their failure to find happiness where they expected to find it. The bitterest disappointment that comes to people who had made fortunes is that their hard-earned wealth could not bring happiness which it promised. They find that love and affection do not feed on material things and the heart would starve in the midst of the greatest luxuries of the world. They find that money can buy all the worldly pleasures, power and pelf but has little power to satisfy the yearnings and hunger of the heart and mind. There are a number of women, living in palatial homes in this country who are starving for happiness and peace in their life. They would be ready to exchange all their luxuries for the love of a good man, without a dollar. One finds love, affection and peace in common, simple and greedless life.

(e)(i) Which word in the passage is opposite to 'sell'?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Understanding the Question:

We need an antonym of 'sell' used in the passage.

Answering:

'Buy' — from the line 'money can buy all the worldly pleasures.'

Quick Tip: Look for a verb meaning the opposite of giving something away for money.

1(e)(ii). Read the following passage carefully and answer the question that follows:

Money plays an important role in fulfilling the basic needs of human life. It helps pave the way to various pleasures of life. But one of the most inexplicable mysteries that has puzzled the selfish rich is their failure to find happiness where they expected to find it. The bitterest disappointment that comes to people who had made fortunes is that their hard-earned wealth could not bring happiness which it promised. They find that love and affection do not feed on material things and the heart would starve in the midst of the greatest luxuries of the world. They find that money can buy all the worldly pleasures, power and pelf but has little power to satisfy the yearnings and hunger of the heart and mind. There are a number of women, living in palatial homes in this country who are starving for happiness and peace in their life. They would be ready to exchange all their luxuries for the love of a good man, without a dollar. One finds love, affection and peace in common, simple and greedless life.

(e)(ii) Which word in the passage means 'without greed'?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Understanding the Question:

We need the passage's own word for 'without greed.'

Answering:

'Greedless' — from the closing line 'common, simple and greedless life.'

Quick Tip: Check the last sentence of the passage.

1(e)(iii). Read the following passage carefully and answer the question that follows:

Money plays an important role in fulfilling the basic needs of human life. It helps pave the way to various pleasures of life. But one of the most inexplicable mysteries that has puzzled the selfish rich is their failure to find happiness where they expected to find it. The bitterest disappointment that comes to people who had made fortunes is that their hard-earned wealth could not bring happiness which it promised. They find that love and affection do not feed on material things and the heart would starve in the midst of the greatest luxuries of the world. They find that money can buy all the worldly pleasures, power and pelf but has little power to satisfy the yearnings and hunger of the heart and mind. There are a number of women, living in palatial homes in this country who are starving for happiness and peace in their life. They would be ready to exchange all their luxuries for the love of a good man, without a dollar. One finds love, affection and peace in common, simple and greedless life.

(e)(iii) Rewrite the underlined segment 'the yearnings and hunger of the heart' after replacing the word 'yearnings' with another similar meaning word.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Understanding the Question:

We need a synonym of 'yearnings' (deep desires/longings).

Answering:

'The longings and hunger of the heart.'

Quick Tip: Think of another word for a strong wistful desire.

2. Write an article in about 100–150 words on: Measures needed to ensure free and fair Competitive Examinations.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Understanding the Task:

An article needs a title, a byline, and a structured discussion of the topic in about 100–150 words.

Model Answer:

ENSURING FREE AND FAIR COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS

— By a Student

Competitive examinations decide the future of lakhs of aspirants, so their sanctity must be protected. First, biometric verification and CCTV surveillance at every exam centre can prevent impersonation. Second, question papers should be transported and stored under sealed, GPS-tracked systems to stop leaks, with strict criminal penalties for anyone caught leaking or selling papers. Third, exam bodies should conduct exams in multiple shifts with different question sets, normalised statistically, to reduce the damage of any single leak. Fourth, independent third-party audits and a dedicated anti-cheating cyber cell can track paper leaks sold online before they spread. Finally, greater transparency — publishing answer keys promptly and allowing objections — builds public trust. Only strict,

transparent, and technology-driven processes can restore students' faith that hard work, not fraud, decides their future.

Quick Tip: Include a title, byline, and 3–4 concrete measures.

OR

Write an article in about 100–150 words on: Widespread unemployment and its effective solutions.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Understanding the Task:

An article needs a title, byline, and a structured discussion in about 100–150 words.

Model Answer:

UNEMPLOYMENT: THE PROBLEM AND THE WAY FORWARD

— By a Student

Unemployment remains one of India's most pressing challenges, affecting both educated youth and unskilled labour. A key cause is the mismatch between what our education system teaches and what industry actually needs. The solution begins with vocational and skill-based training integrated into school and college curricula, so graduates are job-ready. Second, the government must encourage entrepreneurship through easy credit schemes like MUDRA loans, so young people can create jobs rather than only seek them. Third, labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, tourism, and agro-

processing deserve targeted investment, since they absorb far more workers per rupee than capital-intensive industries. Finally, strengthening MSMEs through simpler compliance and faster loan approvals would generate large-scale local employment. With coordinated action from government, industry, and educational institutions, unemployment can be meaningfully reduced.

Quick Tip: Include a title, byline, and 3–4 concrete solutions.

OR

Write an article in about 100–150 words on: Merits and demerits of Privatization of school education.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Understanding the Task:

An article needs a title, byline, and a balanced discussion in about 100–150 words.

Model Answer:

PRIVATIZATION OF SCHOOL EDUCATION: A BALANCED VIEW

— By a Student

Private schools have expanded rapidly across India, and this trend carries both benefits and risks. On the merit side, private schools often provide better infrastructure, smaller class sizes, and greater accountability, since parents can switch schools if quality falls. Competition among private institutions can also drive innovation in

teaching methods. However, the demerits are serious: high fees make quality education unaffordable for poorer families, widening social inequality. Some private schools prioritise profit over pedagogy, and regulation is often weak, allowing unqualified staff or inflated fees to go unchecked. The way forward is not to reject privatization outright but to regulate it firmly — capping fees, mandating a quota for economically weaker sections, and enforcing quality standards — so that private participation improves rather than divides school education.

Quick Tip: Include a title, byline, and both merits and demerits.

3. Suppose you have been living in a flood-hit area. After inundations are over, conditions are quite insanitary. Write a letter to the District Magistrate complaining against the insanitary conditions in your locality.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Understanding the Task:

A formal complaint letter needs sender's address, date, receiver's address, subject, salutation, body, and closing.

Model Answer:

123, Ganga Nagar,
Prayagraj
15 August 2026

The District Magistrate,

Prayagraj

Subject: Complaint regarding insanitary conditions after the recent flood

Sir,

I wish to draw your attention to the unhygienic conditions prevailing in Ganga Nagar locality since the recent floods receded. Stagnant water still lies in several lanes, garbage has piled up uncollected, and the stench has made daily life difficult. Mosquito breeding has increased sharply, and several residents, including children, have already fallen ill with fever and waterborne infections.

I request you to kindly direct the municipal authorities to carry out urgent desilting, garbage removal, and fogging/spraying operations in the affected lanes, and to arrange for temporary medical camps for residents at risk.

I hope for your immediate and kind intervention in this matter.

Thanking you,
Yours faithfully,
Ramesh Kumar

Quick Tip: Use formal letter format with a clear subject line and specific requests.

OR

Write a letter to your Principal for providing proper games and sports facilities as it is inadequate.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Understanding the Task:

A formal application letter needs sender's details, date, receiver's designation, subject, salutation, body, and closing.

Model Answer:

The Principal,
Government Inter College,
Lucknow

15 August 2026

Subject: Request for improved games and sports facilities

Respected Sir/Madam,

I, on behalf of the students of Class XII, wish to bring to your kind notice the inadequate sports facilities in our school. We have only one worn-out cricket bat and a torn football, and the playground lacks proper markings for athletics events. Many students who wish to represent the school in inter-school tournaments are unable to practise properly due to the lack of equipment and a coach.

I therefore request you to kindly arrange for new sports equipment, appoint a physical training instructor, and consider levelling and maintaining the playground so that students can develop their

sporting talents alongside academics.

We hope you will consider our request favourably.

Yours obediently,
Head Boy, Class XII

Quick Tip: Use formal letter format addressed to the Principal, with specific requests.

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

- (A) My friend is very diligent.
- (B) Sita is a lazy girl.
- (C) Ramu is courageous.
- (D) Shyam is an intelligent student.

Correct Answer: (A) My friend is very diligent.

Solution:

Understanding the Question:

'Industrious' means hard-working; we need the underlined word closest in meaning.

Final Answer:

'Diligent' means careful and hard-working, matching 'industrious' exactly. Option (1) is correct.

Quick Tip: Industrious = hard-working.

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

- (A) Idle — Lazy
- (B) Just — Fair
- (C) Victory — Defeat
- (D) Obvious — Clear

Correct Answer: (C) Victory — Defeat

Solution:

Understanding the Question:

We need a pair of OPPOSITE-meaning words.

Final Answer:

'Victory' and 'Defeat' are opposites, so option (3) is correct.

Quick Tip: Look for the pair with opposite meanings, not similar ones.

4(c). "He did not carry out my order" means

- (A) He did not listen my order
- (B) He was not attentive to my order
- (C) He did not hear my order
- (D) He did not obey my order.

Correct Answer: (D) He did not obey my order.

Solution:

Understanding the Question:

'Carry out an order' is an idiom meaning to execute/follow it.

Final Answer:

'Carry out my order' means 'obey my order', so option (4) is correct.

Quick Tip: 'Carry out' relates to action/execution, not hearing.



4(d). A girl who is unusually intelligent is

- (A) wise
- (B) genius
- (C) sluggish
- (D) foolish

Correct Answer: (B) genius

Solution:

Understanding the Question:

We need a single word for someone with exceptional/unusual intelligence.

Final Answer:

'Genius' precisely means a person of exceptional intellectual ability, so option (2) is correct.

Quick Tip: Think of the one-word substitution for exceptional intellect.

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

- (A) I will do this work yesterday.
- (B) She did not went there.
- (C) When did he arrived at home?
- (D) Why did you not go to school today?

Correct Answer: (D) Why did you not go to school today?

Solution:

Understanding the Question:

We must find the grammatically correct sentence among four faulty-tense options.

Checking Each Option:

(1) mixes future tense with 'yesterday' (past); (2) wrongly uses past tense 'went' after 'did not' (should be 'go'); (3) wrongly uses past tense 'arrived' after 'did' (should be 'arrive').

Quick Tip: After 'did', the main verb stays in its base form.

5(a). Change into indirect speech: Ramu said, "Alas! I am undone."

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Understanding the Question:

An exclamatory sentence in direct speech is reported using 'exclaimed

with sorrow/grief that' and the pronoun/tense shift.

Final Answer:

Ramu exclaimed with sorrow that he was undone.

Quick Tip: Exclamatory direct speech uses 'exclaimed with joy/sorrow that' in indirect speech.

OR

Change into indirect speech: The teacher said, "God is everywhere."

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Understanding the Question:

A universal truth stated in direct speech keeps its tense unchanged in indirect speech.

Final Answer:

The teacher said that God is everywhere.

Quick Tip: Universal truths keep the present tense in indirect speech.

5(b). Combine into a Complex sentence: Owing to illness, he could not go to market.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Understanding the Question:

A complex sentence needs one main clause and one subordinate clause joined by a conjunction like 'because'/'as'.

Final Answer:

As he was ill, he could not go to market.

Quick Tip: Turn the reason-phrase into a clause with 'as'/'because'.

OR

Combine into a Simple sentence: Krishna died in the village where she was born.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:**Understanding the Question:**

A simple sentence has only one finite verb; the relative clause 'where she was born' must become a phrase.

Final Answer:

Krishna died in her birthplace.

Quick Tip: Reduce the relative clause to a noun phrase.



5(c). Transform into an Interrogative sentence: You can never forget me.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Understanding the Question:

An affirmative sentence with 'never' is converted to a rhetorical question using 'Can ... ever ...?'.

Final Answer:

Can you ever forget me?

Quick Tip: Assertive with 'never' → Interrogative with 'ever' and inverted word order.

OR

Transform into Comparative degree: Seema is the tallest of all the girls.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Understanding the Question:

A superlative-degree sentence is converted to comparative degree using 'taller than any other'.

Final Answer:

Seema is taller than any other girl.

Quick Tip: Superlative → Comparative: 'the ...est of all' becomes '...er than any other'.

5(d). Correct the following sentence: Linguistics are my favourite subjects.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Understanding the Question:

'Linguistics', though ending in -s, is an uncountable/singular academic subject name and takes a singular verb.

Final Answer:

Linguistics is my favourite subject.

Quick Tip: Subject names ending in -ics take a singular verb.

OR

Correct the following sentence: No news are good news.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Understanding the Question:

'News', though ending in -s, is an uncountable noun and always takes a singular verb.

Final Answer:

No news is good news.

Quick Tip: 'News' is always singular.

5(e). Use the pair of words 'Confident — Confidant' in your own sentences to make the difference in their meanings clear.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Understanding the Question:

'Confident' (adjective) means self-assured; 'Confidant' (noun) means a person trusted with secrets.

Final Answer:

She felt confident before her exam. / Priya is my closest confidant, and I share all my secrets with her.

Quick Tip: Confident = self-assured (adj); Confidant = trusted friend (noun).

OR

Use the pair of words 'Check — Cheque' in your own sentences to make the difference in their meanings clear.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Understanding the Question:

'Check' means to verify or a stop/restraint; 'Cheque' is a written bank order for payment.

Final Answer:

Please check your answers before submitting the paper. / He paid the shopkeeper by cheque.

Quick Tip: Check = verify/restrain (verb/noun); Cheque = bank payment order (noun).

6. Translate the following passage into English:

शिक्षा विद्यार्थियों की रुचि के अनुसार ही होना चाहिये। यदि उसमें साहित्यिक प्रतिभा है तो उसे विज्ञान या वाणिज्य पढ़ाना व्यर्थ है। हाई स्कूल तथा इण्टरमीडिएट स्तर की शिक्षा सबके लिये अनिवार्य होनी चाहिये। प्रतिभाशाली छात्र ही विश्वविद्यालय के लिये उपयुक्त हैं। माध्यमिक शिक्षा का स्तर ऐसा होना चाहिए कि विद्यार्थी एक योग्य नागरिक एवम् सामान्य कार्य के लिये सक्षम बन सके।

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Understanding the Passage:

The passage discusses matching education to a student's aptitude and the purpose of school-level education.

Translation:

Education should be imparted according to the interest of the students. If a student has a literary talent, it is useless to teach him science or commerce. Education at the High School and Intermediate level should be compulsory for everyone. Only talented students are suited for university education. The standard of secondary education should be such that a student can become a capable citizen and become fit for ordinary work.

Quick Tip: Translate sentence by sentence, keeping the original meaning intact.



7(a). What did the inhabitants of Seemapuri do for their livelihood?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Understanding the Question:

This refers to Anees Jung's 'Lost Spring', about the ragpickers of Seemapuri, a Delhi slum.

Final Answer:

The inhabitants of Seemapuri, mostly migrants from Bangladesh who settled there around 1971, survived by ragpicking — scavenging the city's garbage for saleable items. For them, garbage was a means of daily survival, and many children saw it as something wrapped in wonder, sometimes even finding a coin or a bit of money in it.

Quick Tip: Recall the ragpicker community from 'Lost Spring'.

OR

How did the rattrap seller make rattraps? What for did he make them?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Understanding the Question:

This refers to Selma Lagerlöf's 'The Rattrap', about a poor peddler

who sells hand-made rattraps.

Final Answer:

He made rattraps out of pieces of wire that he collected by begging or bartering from farmhouses, twisting the wire into small cages. He made and sold them to earn a meagre living, since he had no other trade, and he wandered from place to place selling them, sometimes also resorting to begging or petty theft to survive.

Quick Tip: Recall the peddler's craft from 'The Rattrap'.



7(b). What did Mr. Hamel teach the boys at school?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Understanding the Question:

This refers to Alphonse Daudet's 'The Last Lesson', where M. Hamel teaches his final French class before the region passes to Prussian rule.

Final Answer:

M. Hamel taught the boys French — grammar, writing, and reading — since it was to be their last lesson in their mother tongue before German would replace it as the medium of instruction. On that final day, he taught with unusual patience, reviewing rules of grammar and having them practise handwriting exercises with headings like 'France, Alsace, France, Alsace'.

Quick Tip: Recall the subject M. Hamel teaches in 'The Last Lesson'.

OR

What did the garbage mean for the children of Seemapuri? What did they find in it?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Understanding the Question:

This refers to Anees Jung's 'Lost Spring', describing how Seemapuri's children view garbage.

Final Answer:

For the children of Seemapuri, garbage was wrapped in wonder — it was their daily bread, a means of survival, but also held the excitement of the unknown, since they never knew what they might find in it. Sometimes they found a rupee, even a ten-rupee note, which made it something even more valuable than mere gold to them.

Quick Tip: Recall the description of garbage as 'wrapped in wonder' in 'Lost Spring'.

8. How did Douglas overcome his fear of water? How did the instructor help to make him a fearless swimmer?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Understanding the Question:

This refers to William O. Douglas's 'Deep Water', an autobiographical account of overcoming a childhood fear of drowning.

Final Answer:

After nearly drowning as a boy at the YMCA pool, Douglas developed a deep fear of water that haunted him for years. He overcame it by consciously deciding to conquer his fear rather than live with it, and he hired a professional instructor. The instructor broke swimming into small steps: he first used a harness and rope to guide Douglas back and forth across the pool for weeks until fear left him, then trained him bit by bit in kicking, breathing, and arm movements, only combining them once each was mastered separately. Finally, Douglas tested himself by swimming alone across Lake Wentworth and then Warm Lake, deliberately courting the fear each time until it was completely gone.

Quick Tip: Recall the harness-and-rope training method in 'Deep Water'.

OR

What did Gandhiji do to bring about changes in the plight of the peasants of Champaran?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:**Understanding the Question:**

This refers to Louis Fischer's 'Indigo', describing Gandhi's Champaran movement of 1917.

Final Answer:

Gandhiji arrived in Champaran to investigate the exploitation of indigo sharecroppers, who were forced under the tinkathia system to grow indigo on 15% of their land for British planters. When ordered to leave by the British authorities, he refused and courted arrest, which drew massive public support and forced the government to back down — his first act of civil disobedience in India. He then led a thorough inquiry, personally recording hundreds of peasants' testimonies, which exposed the planters' exploitation. This pressured the government to set up an official Committee of Inquiry, on which Gandhi himself served, ultimately leading to the abolition of the tinkathia system and partial refunds to the peasants of the illegal money extracted from them. He also started schools and encouraged health and sanitation reforms in the villages, and mobilised local lawyers and volunteers into a spirit of selfless service.

Quick Tip: Recall Gandhi's civil disobedience and the tinkathia system in 'Indigo'.

9. Read the following extract and answer: "Perhaps the Earth can teach us / as when everything seems dead / and later proves to be alive. / Now I'll count up to twelve / and you keep quiet and I will go." — (a) What does the 'earth' teach us?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:**Understanding the Question:**

This extract is from Pablo Neruda's poem 'Keeping Quiet'.

Final Answer:

The earth teaches us that even when everything appears dead or dormant (as in winter), it later proves to be alive again (as in spring) — symbolising renewal, healing, and the value of stillness before rebirth.

Quick Tip: Think of the seasonal cycle — dormancy followed by renewal.

9(b). Read the following extract and answer: "Perhaps the Earth can teach us / as when everything seems dead / and later proves to be alive. / Now I'll count up to twelve / and you keep quiet and I will go." — (b) What remains alive when everything seems dead?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:**Understanding the Question:**

The poet is referring to nature's hidden vitality even in apparent dormancy.

Final Answer:

The earth itself — its underlying life force and capacity for renewal — remains alive, even when everything on the surface (trees, plants) appears dead, such as in winter.

Quick Tip: Consider what persists beneath a seemingly dead winter landscape.

9(c). Read the following extract and answer: "Perhaps the Earth can teach us / as when everything seems dead / and later proves to be alive. / Now I'll count up to twelve / and you keep quiet and I will go." — (c) Name the poet and the poem from which this extract has been taken.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Understanding the Question:

We need the author and title of this poem.

Final Answer:

The poet is Pablo Neruda, and the poem is 'Keeping Quiet'.

Quick Tip: This poem is about stillness and introspection, by a Chilean Nobel laureate.

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

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Understanding the Question:

This poem by Adrienne Rich uses embroidered tigers as a symbol contrasting freedom with oppression.

Final Answer:

The poem contrasts the bold, free tigers Aunt Jennifer embroiders with her own timid, oppressed life as a married woman, weighed down by her husband's authority (symbolised by her wedding ring).

Even after her death, the tigers she created will continue to prance on, fearless — suggesting that art can express and outlive the freedom a person is denied in real life, and hinting at the wider theme of women's suppression in patriarchal marriage.

Quick Tip: Focus on the tigers as a symbol of freedom versus Aunt Jennifer's real, restricted life.

OR

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

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Understanding the Question:

This extract from John Keats's 'Endymion' celebrates the lasting joy that beauty gives.

Final Answer:

The central idea is that 'a thing of beauty is a joy forever' — beautiful things in nature and life (the sun, moon, trees, daffodils, old and young stories) never fade into nothingness but keep offering solace and quiet pleasure. Such beauty acts like a shelter and a source of healing, helping us endure the sorrow, despondency, and hardships of everyday human life, binding us to the earth despite its troubles.

Quick Tip: Focus on Keats's claim that beauty is an eternal joy that heals sorrow.

OR

Write the central idea of the poem 'My Mother at Sixty-six'.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Understanding the Question:

This poem by Kamala Das describes the poet's anxiety about her ageing mother during a car ride to the airport.

Final Answer:

While driving her mother to the airport, the poet notices her mother's pale, ashen, sleeping face and is struck by the fear of losing her to old age and death, comparing her to the fading landscape and an old dim photograph. Despite this fear, the poet manages a smile and reassuring words on parting, hiding her inner pain — the poem captures the universal ache of watching a parent grow old, and the way we mask our deepest fears with a brave, ordinary smile.

Quick Tip: Focus on the mother's ageing, the poet's fear of loss, and the hidden smile at parting.

11(a). What will the Maharaja do to find the required number of tigers to kill?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Understanding the Question:

This refers to Kalki's satirical story 'The Tiger King', where the king is obsessed with killing 100 tigers to defy a prophecy.

Final Answer:

When tigers ran out in his own state, the Maharaja decided to get married into a royal family that had a large tiger population in its forests, so that he could hunt there. He married the daughter of the Maharaja of Pratibandapuram's neighbouring state specifically to gain access to its tiger-rich forest for his hunts, and even planned to hunt in the forests of high-ranking British officials' states by flattering and gifting them, to make up for the shortfall.

Quick Tip: Recall his marriage strategy to access more tigers in 'The Tiger King'.

OR

Who was Dr. Sadao? Where was his house situated?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:**Understanding the Question:**

This refers to Pearl S. Buck's story 'The Enemy', about a Japanese surgeon during World War II.

Final Answer:

Dr. Sadao Hoki was a distinguished Japanese surgeon and scientist, trained in America, who was perfecting a technique to treat wound infections and also served as the personal physician to the ailing Japanese General. His house was situated on the Japanese coast, built on a spot of land that jutted into the sea, with the house perched dramatically above the water on a rock — making it isolated, which

later allowed him to secretly shelter a wounded American prisoner of war.

Quick Tip: Recall Dr. Sadao's profession and his seaside house from 'The Enemy'.



11(b). What prediction had the astrologer made about the tiger king's death?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Understanding the Question:

This refers to Kalki's 'The Tiger King', which opens with an astrological prophecy.

Final Answer:

The astrologers at his birth predicted that the Tiger King, then just ten days old, would one day have to die, and that his death would come from a tiger — the hundredth tiger he attempted to kill would be the cause of his death, unless he was extremely careful in dealing with tigers.

Quick Tip: Recall the tiger-related death prophecy that opens 'The Tiger King'.

OR

What made Derry impressed by Lamb?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Understanding the Question:

This refers to Susan Hill's story 'On the Face of It', about Derry, a disfigured boy, and old Mr. Lamb.

Final Answer:

Derry, who was deeply self-conscious about the acid-burn scars on his face and avoided people, was impressed by Mr. Lamb because, unlike others, Lamb never stared at or pitied his scarred face, and instead treated him as a normal, capable boy. Lamb's open-mindedness, his cheerful philosophy of embracing life despite his own disability (an artificial leg), and his encouragement that Derry should not hide from the world impressed and moved Derry deeply.

Quick Tip: Recall Lamb's accepting, life-affirming attitude in 'On the Face of It'.

12. What does the third level refer to?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Understanding the Question:

This refers to Jack Finney's story 'The Third Level', about Charley, who discovers (or imagines) an extra level at Grand Central Station.

Final Answer:

The 'third level' refers to a mysterious, extra level of the Grand Central Station that the narrator, Charley, claims to have stumbled upon — one that seems to belong to the year 1894, complete with old-fashioned clothes, gas lamps, and a newspaper dated to that year. Officially, Grand Central has only two levels, so the third level is understood as a psychological escape, a product of Charley's (and modern man's) subconscious longing to flee the anxiety, insecurity and pressures of the atomic age into a simpler, more peaceful past.

Quick Tip: Recall Charley's discovery of the extra platform in 'The Third Level'.

OR

How did Bama react when she came to know about untouchability?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Understanding the Question:

This refers to Bama's memoir 'Memories of Childhood' ('We Too Are Human Beings'), describing her discovery of caste discrimination as a child.

Final Answer:

When Bama, then a young girl, saw an elder of her community carrying a packet of snacks by its string without touching it directly, and later learnt from her brother Annan that this was because the man belonged to a 'lower' caste and was forbidden from touching upper-caste people or their food directly, she was shocked, angered, and deeply hurt. Her initial reaction was disbelief and amusement,

which quickly turned into anger and sadness once she understood the humiliation involved. Following her brother's advice, she resolved to study hard so that she could earn respect through her own achievements rather than accept this indignity passively.

Quick Tip: Recall the packet-of-snacks incident and her brother Annan's explanation.