

UP Board Class 12 English 2026 (Set 316 CA) 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:

Machines were made to be man's servant, yet he has grown so dependent on them that they are on a fair way to become his master. Although most men spend most of their lives looking after and waiting upon machines. And machines are very stern masters. They must be fed with coal and given petrol to drink, and oil to wash with and they must be kept at the right temperature. If they do not get their meals, they grow sulky and refuse to work or burst with rage and blow up and spread ruin and destruction all round them. So, we have to wait upon them very attentively and do all that we can to keep them in good temper. Already we find it difficult either to work or play without machines, and a time may come when they will rule us as we rule the animals.

(a) "Machines were made to be man's servant." What does it suggest?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the line:

The statement introduces the passage's irony — machines were originally invented to serve and ease human labour.

Step 2: What it suggests:

It suggests that although machines were meant to be tools that obey and assist man, man has grown so dependent on them that their intended, subordinate role is being reversed — the servant is turning into the master.

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

Machines were made to be man's servant, yet he has grown so dependent on them that they are on a fair way to become his master. Although most men spend most of their lives looking after and waiting upon machines. And machines are very stern masters. They must be fed with coal and given petrol to drink, and oil to wash with and they must be kept at the right temperature. If they do not get their meals, they grow sulky and refuse to work or burst with rage and blow up and spread ruin and destruction all round them. So, we have to wait upon them very attentively and do all that we can to keep them in good temper. Already we find it difficult either to work or play without machines, and a time may come when they will rule us as we rule the animals.

(b) Why should the machines be kept at the right temperature?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:**Step 1: What the passage says:**

The passage compares machines to "stern masters" who must be fed

coal, given petrol to drink, oil to wash with, and kept at the right temperature.

Step 2: Reason:

Machines need to be kept at the right temperature because, like living masters, they will not function properly and may even become dangerous if this basic maintenance is neglected — an overheated or badly maintained machine can "grow sulky and refuse to work" or, worse, "burst with rage."

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

Machines were made to be man's servant, yet he has grown so dependent on them that they are on a fair way to become his master. Although most men spend most of their lives looking after and waiting upon machines. And machines are very stern masters. They must be fed with coal and given petrol to drink, and oil to wash with and they must be kept at the right temperature. If they do not get their meals, they grow sulky and refuse to work or burst with rage and blow up and spread ruin and destruction all round them. So, we have to wait upon them very attentively and do all that we can to keep them in good temper. Already we find it difficult either to work or play without machines, and a time may come when they will rule us as we rule the animals.

(c) In what condition do the machines blow up and spread ruin and destruction?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Locating the condition:

The passage says: "If they do not get their meals, they grow sulky and refuse to work or burst with rage and blow up and spread ruin and destruction all round them."

Step 2: Answer:

Machines blow up and spread ruin and destruction when they are neglected — when they are not "fed" with coal, petrol and oil, and not kept in good working condition/temperature, i.e. when man fails to attend to them carefully.

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

Machines were made to be man's servant, yet he has grown so dependent on them that they are on a fair way to become his master. Although most men spend most of their lives looking after and waiting upon machines. And machines are very stern masters. They must be fed with coal and given petrol to drink, and oil to wash with and they must be kept at the right temperature. If they do not get their meals, they grow sulky and refuse to work or burst with rage and blow up and spread ruin and destruction all round them. So, we have to wait upon them very attentively and do all that we can to keep them in good temper. Already we find it difficult either to work or play without machines, and a time may come when they will rule us as we rule the animals.

(d) What can be the result if the machines are not kept in good temper?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Locating the result:

The passage states two possible results of a machine not being kept in "good temper": it may "grow sulky and refuse to work" or it may "burst with rage and blow up and spread ruin and destruction all round them."

Step 2: Answer:

If not kept in good temper, a machine may either stop working altogether (sulk) or become destructive, exploding and causing ruin and destruction around it — so the consequence ranges from simple non-cooperation to outright danger.

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

Machines were made to be man's servant, yet he has grown so dependent on them that they are on a fair way to become his master. Although most men spend most of their lives looking after and waiting upon machines. And machines are very stern masters. They must be fed with coal and given petrol to drink, and oil to wash with and they must be kept at the right temperature. If they do not get their meals, they grow sulky and refuse to work or burst with rage and blow up and spread ruin and destruction all round them. So, we have to wait upon them very attentively and do all that we can to keep them in good temper. Already we find it difficult either to work or play without machines, and a time may come when they will rule us as we rule the animals.

(e)(i) What meaning do you infer from 'they will rule us as we rule the animals'?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Reading the comparison:

The line compares the future relationship between man and machines to the present relationship between man and animals, where man is dominant.

Step 2: Inference:

It implies that just as humans currently control and dominate animals, machines may one day grow so powerful and indispensable that they end up controlling and dominating human beings instead — a complete reversal of roles.

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

Machines were made to be man's servant, yet he has grown so dependent on them that they are on a fair way to become his master. Although most men spend most of their lives looking after and waiting upon machines. And machines are very stern masters. They must be fed with coal and given petrol to drink, and oil to wash with and they must be kept at the right temperature. If they do not get their meals, they grow sulky and refuse to work or burst with rage and blow up and spread ruin and destruction all round them. So, we have to wait upon them very attentively and do all that we can to keep them in good temper. Already we find it difficult either to work or play without machines, and a time may come when they will rule us as we rule the animals.

(e)(ii) Which word in the passage is the opposite of 'Calmness'?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Scanning the passage for an antonym:

'Calmness' means a state of being peaceful and undisturbed; its opposite would be a word describing anger or agitation.

Step 2: Answer:

The word '**rage**' (as in "burst with rage") is the word in the passage that is opposite in meaning to 'Calmness'.

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

Machines were made to be man's servant, yet he has grown so dependent on them that they are on a fair way to become his master. Although most men spend most of their lives looking after and waiting upon machines. And machines are very stern masters. They must be fed with coal and given petrol to drink, and oil to wash with and they must be kept at the right temperature. If they do not get their meals, they grow sulky and refuse to work or burst with rage and blow up and spread ruin and destruction all round them. So, we have to wait upon them very attentively and do all that we can to keep them in good temper. Already we find it difficult either to work or play without machines, and a time may come when they will rule us as we rule the animals.

(e)(iii) Rewrite the underlined segment after replacing the word 'attentively' with another similar meaning word.

(Underlined segment: "we have to wait upon them very attentively")

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Finding a synonym:

'Attentively' means with close, careful attention; a similar meaning

word is 'carefully' or 'watchfully'.

Step 2: Rewritten segment:

"We have to wait upon them very **carefully**."

2. Write an article on the following topic in about 150 words:

(a) Fight against Corruption.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Fight against Corruption

Corruption is one of the biggest obstacles to a nation's progress. It exists in the form of bribery, favouritism, and misuse of public office for private gain, and it seeps into government offices, police stations, schools, and even hospitals. It slows down development, discourages honest hard work, and widens the gap between the rich and the poor, since those who can pay bribes get undue advantages while the deserving are left behind.

The fight against corruption must begin with strong laws and their strict, impartial enforcement, so that no offender, however powerful, escapes punishment. Transparency in government processes, the use of technology such as online applications and payments to reduce human interference, and active whistle-blower protection can all help curb it. Equally important is the role of citizens: we must refuse to offer or accept bribes and report corrupt practices instead of tolerating them out of fear or convenience.

Ultimately, corruption cannot be eliminated by the government alone; it requires a change in the mindset of every citizen. Only a collective, honest effort can build a corruption-free and truly progressive nation.

OR

Write an article on the following topic in about 150 words:

(b) Problems that Encircle Youths.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Problems that Encircle Youths

Today's youth, despite being the most energetic and capable section of society, are surrounded by a web of serious problems. Unemployment tops the list — lakhs of educated young people struggle to find jobs matching their qualifications, leading to frustration and a sense of hopelessness. The pressure of competitive examinations and the fear of failure often affect their mental health, causing stress, anxiety and, in extreme cases, depression.

Added to this is the growing menace of drug and substance abuse, which many young people fall into as an escape from pressure or out of peer influence. The excessive and unregulated use of social media has also created problems of addiction, unhealthy comparison, and a loss of real-world social skills. Lack of proper career guidance leaves many confused about the right path to choose after school or college.

Solving these problems requires quality education linked to employable skills, accessible mental health support, and awareness programmes against substance abuse. If guided properly by parents,

teachers, and society, the youth can convert these very challenges into stepping stones for a brighter future.

OR

Write an article on the following topic in about 150 words:

(c) Qualities of an Ideal Leader.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Qualities of an Ideal Leader

An ideal leader is one who inspires others not through fear or authority, but through vision, integrity and example. The first and most important quality is honesty — people trust and follow a leader whose words match their actions. An ideal leader also possesses a clear vision and the ability to communicate it in a way that motivates others to work towards a common goal.

Good decision-making, especially under pressure, is another essential trait; a leader must be able to weigh options calmly and take responsibility for the outcome, whether it succeeds or fails. Empathy is equally important — a truly great leader listens to the concerns of the people they lead and treats everyone with fairness and respect, rather than favouring a select few. Courage to stand by what is right, even when it is unpopular, further distinguishes an ideal leader from an ordinary one.

Leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Abraham Lincoln are remembered not for the power they held, but for the values — honesty, courage,

empathy and vision — they embodied. These very qualities, more than any title or position, are what define true leadership.



3. Suppose, you are Vivek and live in a village. Now, write a letter to the District Magistrate of your district complaining to him about the negligence of the block level officers in applying and implementing the government's development schemes in your village.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

To,
The District Magistrate,
[District Name].

Subject: Complaint regarding negligence of block level officers in implementing government schemes.

Sir,

I, Vivek, a resident of [Village Name] in your district, wish to bring to your kind notice the serious negligence being shown by the block level officers in implementing the government's development schemes meant for our village.

Despite several schemes being sanctioned for road construction, clean drinking water, and rural employment, none of these have been properly implemented so far. The block officers rarely visit the village, and when villagers approach the block office with applications, they are turned away on one pretext or another. As a result, the intended

benefits of these schemes are not reaching the poor and needy families who need them the most.

I request you to kindly look into this matter urgently and direct the concerned officers to fulfil their duties sincerely, so that the benefits of government schemes actually reach the villagers of our area. An inspection visit by your office would also help verify the ground reality.

I hope you will take prompt action in this regard.

Thanking you,
Yours faithfully,
Vivek
[Village Name]

OR

You are Anjani and you have passed High School. Now, write an application to the Sports Teacher of your college requesting him to issue a certificate of games, you participated in successfully.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

To,
The Sports Teacher,
[College Name].

Subject: Request for issuance of sports participation certificate.

Sir,

I, Anjani, a student of your college, have recently passed my High School examination. During my time in school, I actively participated in several games and sports events organised by the college, including [name games, e.g. Kabaddi, Athletics, Badminton], and represented the college successfully at the district level.

As I am now applying for admission to Intermediate and wish to include my sports achievements in my application, I request you to kindly issue me a certificate stating the games I participated in and my performance in them.

I shall be highly obliged for this favour and assure you that the certificate will be used only for the intended purpose.

Thanking you,

Yours obediently,

Anjani

Class: High School (Passed)

Roll No.: [Roll Number]



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

- (A) He is a very strong candidate for the post, published.
- (B) Sheela is too weak to go to station.
- (C) He found himself in a comfortable situation.
- (D) Satyam is suitable for the post.

Correct Answer: (B) Sheela is too weak to go to station.

Solution:

Step 1: Meaning of 'Feeble':

'Feeble' means physically weak, lacking strength or energy.

Step 2: Checking each option:

'Strong' is an antonym, 'comfortable' and 'suitable' are unrelated in meaning; 'weak' directly matches the meaning of 'feeble'.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Option (ii) "weak" is the synonym of 'Feeble'.



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

- (A) Defect – Fault
- (B) Liberal – Generous
- (C) Gallant – Brave
- (D) Bright – Faint

Correct Answer: (D) Bright – Faint

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding antonyms:

An antonym pair consists of two words with opposite meanings.

Step 2: Checking each pair:

'Defect-Fault', 'Liberal-Generous', and 'Gallant-Brave' are all pairs of synonyms (similar meanings), not antonyms.

Step 3: Final Answer:

'Bright' (full of light) and 'Faint' (dim, weak) are opposite in meaning — option (iv) is the correct antonym pair.

4(c). 'Through thick and thin' means

- (A) All the time
- (B) Only in the favourable situation
- (C) In all situations, favourable or unfavourable
- (D) At the right moment

Correct Answer: (C) In all situations, favourable or unfavourable

Solution:

Step 1: Meaning of the idiom:

'Through thick and thin' is an idiom meaning to remain loyal or persistent despite difficulties, in both good times and bad.

Step 2: Checking each option:

"All the time" is too generic, "only in favourable situation" is the opposite of the idiom's meaning, and "at the right moment" is unrelated.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Option (iii) "In all situations, favourable or unfavourable" correctly captures the idiom's meaning.

4(d). The leader, who cannot be approached, is –

- (A) Reachable
- (B) Permissible
- (C) Incredible
- (D) Inaccessible

Correct Answer: (D) Inaccessible

Solution:

Step 1: Meaning of the phrase:

"Cannot be approached" describes someone who is not easy to reach or get close to.

Step 2: Checking each option:

'Reachable' means the opposite; 'Permissible' means allowed; 'Incredible' means unbelievable — none fit.

Step 3: Final Answer:

'Inaccessible' means not able to be reached or approached, matching the description exactly — option (iv) is correct.

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

- (A) Nandita spoke to her father about her studies.
- (B) He avoided to meeting me.
- (C) Krishna is worried on his father's illness.
- (D) I am fond in talking to you.

Correct Answer: (A) Nandita spoke to her father about her studies.

Solution:

Step 1: Checking each sentence for grammatical errors:

(ii) should be "avoided meeting me" (avoid + gerund, not 'to + gerund'); (iii) should be "worried about" not "worried on"; (iv) should be "fond of" not "fond in".

Step 2: Checking option (i):

"Nandita spoke to her father about her studies" uses correct verb form ('spoke to'), preposition ('about'), and structure throughout.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Option (i) is the grammatically correct sentence.



5(a). Change into indirect speech:

(i) He said to the teacher, "Sir, will you not teach me tomorrow?"

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Identifying the sentence type:

This is an interrogative sentence (a question) inside direct speech, addressed respectfully to the teacher.

Step 2: Applying the rules:

The reporting verb 'said to' changes to 'asked' (or 'requested'); the vocative 'Sir' becomes 'respectfully'/'the teacher'; the tense of 'will' shifts back to 'would'; question word order changes to statement order introduced by 'if/whether'.

Step 3: Final Answer:

He respectfully asked the teacher if he would not teach him the next day.

OR

Change into indirect speech:

(ii) He said, "Good bye, my friends."

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Identifying the sentence type:

"Good bye" is an expression used for leave-taking/farewell, which requires a special reporting verb rather than 'said'.

Step 2: Applying the rule:

For farewells, the reporting verb 'said' changes to 'bade good bye to' and the structure is rearranged accordingly.

Step 3: Final Answer:

He bade good bye to his friends.

5(b). Combine the following as directed:

(i) He admitted his error. He expressed his regret. (Simple Sentence)

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Identifying the two clauses:

Both sentences describe two related actions performed by the same subject ('He').

Step 2: Combining into one simple sentence:

A simple sentence has only one finite verb; the second action is expressed using a present participle or a prepositional phrase.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Admitting his error, he expressed his regret.

OR

Combine the following as directed:

(ii) The servant had a duty to perform. The duty was difficult. (Complex sentence)

Correct Answer: —

Solution:**Step 1: Identifying the relationship:**

The second sentence describes ('the duty was difficult') the noun 'duty' mentioned in the first sentence — this calls for a relative/adjective clause.

Step 2: Forming the complex sentence:

A complex sentence has one main clause and at least one subordinate clause, joined by a relative pronoun such as 'which' or 'that'.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The servant had a duty to perform which was difficult.

5(c). Transform the following as directed:

(i) It is time to shut the shop. (Passive voice)

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Identifying the structure:

"It is time to + verb" is an infinitive construction; to convert to passive, the infinitive verb ('shut') takes the passive infinitive form 'to be + past participle'.

Step 2: Applying the rule:

'to shut' becomes 'to be shut'; the rest of the sentence frame stays the same.

Step 3: Final Answer:

It is time for the shop to be shut.

OR

Transform the following as directed:

(ii) He doesn't care for his studies. (Affirmative sentence)

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Identifying the negative:

The sentence uses "doesn't care", a negative verb form, which needs to be converted to an equivalent positive statement without changing the meaning.

Step 2: Applying the rule:

A common way to affirm a negative is to use an antonym expression: "doesn't care for" becomes "is careless about" or "neglects".

Step 3: Final Answer:

He is careless about his studies.



5(d). Correct the following sentence:

(i) Shelley has written many poetries.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Identifying the error:

'Poetry' is an uncountable noun (like 'literature' or 'music') and does not take a plural form or the article 'many' directly with '-ies'.

Step 2: Correcting it:

To express the idea of several works of poetry, the correct countable noun 'poems' should be used instead of 'poetries'.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Shelley has written many poems.

OR

Correct the following sentence:

(ii) Vikas invited me for dinner.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Identifying the error:

The standard collocation with 'invite' when referring to a meal is 'invite someone to dinner', not 'for dinner'.

Step 2: Correcting it:

The preposition 'for' should be replaced with 'to'.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Vikas invited me to dinner.



5(e). Use the following pair of words in your own sentences to make the difference in their meanings clear:

(i) Coarse - Course

Correct Answer: —

Solution:**Step 1: Meaning of 'Coarse':**

'Coarse' is an adjective meaning rough in texture or crude/vulgar in manner.

Step 2: Meaning of 'Course':

'Course' is a noun meaning a direction, a plan of study, or the route/progress of something.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Coarse: The sack was made of coarse cloth that scratched my skin.

Course: She is doing a computer course this year.

OR

Use the following pair of words in your own sentences to make the difference in their meanings clear:

(ii) Alter - Altar

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Meaning of 'Alter':

'Alter' is a verb meaning to change or modify something.

Step 2: Meaning of 'Altar':

'Altar' is a noun referring to a sacred table or platform used in religious ceremonies, such as in a temple or church.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Alter: The tailor agreed to alter the shirt to fit me better.

Altar: The priest lit a lamp on the altar before the prayer began.

6. Translate the following passage into English:

छात्रों, तुमने बाल गंगाधर का नाम अवश्य सुना होगा। जब वे बड़े हुए तो उन्हें अपने देश की दशा देखकर बड़ा दुःख हुआ। उस समय भारतवर्ष अंग्रेजों की दास्यता में जकड़ा हुआ था। उन्होंने दृढ़ प्रतिज्ञा की, कि वे देश को स्वतंत्र करायेंगे। इसके लिए उन्होंने पूरे देश का भ्रमण किया और सभी प्रकार के व्यक्तियों से बातचीत की। अंग्रेजों ने उन्हें बड़ा कष्ट दिया और कई वर्षों तक उन्हें जेल में रखा।

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Reading the Hindi passage:

The passage introduces Bal Gangadhar (Tilak), describing his grief at

his country's condition under British rule, his resolve to free India, his travels to meet people across the country, and the suffering (imprisonment) the British inflicted on him for it.

Step 2: Translating into English:

Rendering each sentence faithfully while keeping the meaning and tone intact.

Translation:

Students, you must certainly have heard the name of Bal Gangadhar. When he grew up, he felt deeply pained on seeing the condition of his country. At that time, India was bound in the servitude of the British. He made a firm resolve that he would free the country. For this, he travelled across the whole country and spoke with people of all kinds. The British caused him great suffering and kept him in jail for several years.



7(a). Why did M. Hamel say to his children to be very attentive while teaching the last French lesson?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Context:

In Alphonse Daudet's 'The Last Lesson', an order had come from Berlin that only German would henceforth be taught in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine, which had been annexed by Prussia.

Step 2: Reason:

M. Hamel asked the children to be very attentive because this was

literally their *last* lesson in the French language — their mother tongue — and he wanted them to grasp and cherish as much of it as possible before it was taken away from the school curriculum forever.

OR

Who was Caroline? What did she write in her diary?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Note on this question: A character named "Caroline" and a diary do not appear in the standard NCERT Flamingo/Vistas texts prescribed for UP Board Class 12 English ('The Last Lesson', 'Lost Spring', 'Deep Water', 'Indigo', 'The Rattrap', 'Poets and Pancakes' in Flamingo; 'The Third Level', 'The Tiger King', 'The Enemy', 'On the Face of It', 'Evans Tries an O-Level', 'Memories of Childhood' in Vistas). This appears to be either an error in the question paper or a reference to a supplementary reader not identifiable from the paper itself.

If this is intended as a reference to a young diarist confronting hardship or war (a common theme in school English readers, e.g. Anne Frank's 'The Diary of a Young Girl'), the general expected answer would describe a young girl who recorded her private thoughts, fears, and hopes about the difficult circumstances around her in her diary. However, this cannot be answered with certainty against the actual prescribed text without confirming the source — flagged for verification rather than guessed at.

7(b). What do the bangles symbolise as told in the lesson 'Lost Spring'?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Context:

In Anees Jung's 'Lost Spring', the section 'Bangles of Fire' describes the bangle-makers of Firozabad, a community trapped for generations in the glass-bangle industry.

Step 2: Symbolism:

Bangles symbolise the suhaag (the married status and long life of the husband) of a Hindu woman — a mother in the story remarks that God alone can save a family whose members are not destined to make bangles for the suhaag of women. At the same time, bangles ironically symbolise the very poverty and bondage of the community that makes them: their makers labour in dark, hot furnace-lit hovels, ruining their eyesight, yet they themselves remain trapped in a cycle of poverty and never rise above their circumstances, unlike the glittering ornaments they produce.

OR

Why did the head of the make-up department of the Gemini studios, leave?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Context:

In Asokamitran's 'Poets and Pancakes', an account of Gemini Studios, an English make-up man was engaged for a major production,

believed to be a highly qualified expert from a big overseas studio.

Step 2: Reason he left:

According to the text, this Englishman's methods gave every actor's face the same uniform, mask-like "pancake" look, regardless of their individual complexion or character — a technique that did not suit the Indian setting. It gradually became apparent that his real expertise was far less impressive than his reputation suggested, and that Gemini's own local make-up artists were, in fact, more skilled. Once his limitations were exposed and his contribution proved unnecessary, he left the studio, having found nothing more to justify his continued employment there.



8. Answer any one of the following in about 80 words:

(a) What incident did Douglas face at the pool? What was its effect on his life?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: The incident:

In William Douglas's 'Deep Water', as a boy of ten or eleven, Douglas was learning to swim at the YMCA pool in Yakima. One day, a big, heavy boy knocked him into the deep end as a prank. Douglas sank to the bottom, terrified, swallowed water repeatedly, and each time he tried to push himself up for air he sank again before finally losing consciousness; he was rescued only at the last moment by a lifeguard/another swimmer.

Step 2: Its effect:

The near-drowning left Douglas with an intense, long-lasting fear of water, which haunted him for years and affected his enjoyment of swimming, boating, and fishing. It was only much later, as an adult, that he consciously and systematically overcame this fear by hiring an instructor and training rigorously, eventually swimming across Lake Wentworth to fully conquer his terror — a triumph that taught him fear itself, more than any real danger, is what must be overcome.

OR

(b) Who was Rajkumar Shukla? For what reason did he decide to meet Gandhiji?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Who he was:

In Louis Fischer's 'Indigo', Rajkumar Shukla was a poor, illiterate but resolute peasant from the Champaran district of Bihar, representing local sharecroppers forced under the 'tinkathia' system to grow indigo on three-twentieths of their land for British planters and sell it at unfairly low, fixed prices.

Step 2: Why he sought Gandhi:

He decided to meet Gandhiji at the Lucknow session of the Indian National Congress in December 1916 to persuade him to visit Champaran and witness the suffering of the indigo sharecroppers first-hand, hoping Gandhi's intervention would bring them justice against the exploitative planters. Shukla's persistence — following Gandhi from place to place, even to his ashram in Ahmedabad — eventually convinced Gandhi to travel to Champaran.

9. Read the following extract carefully and answer the question that follows:

And such is the grandeur of the dooms
We have imagined for the mighty dead;
And lovely tales that we have heard or read;
An endless fountain of immortal drink,
Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink.

(a) About whom have we heard or read the lovely tales?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Locating the reference:

The lines speak of "the grandeur of the dooms / We have imagined for the mighty dead", immediately followed by "lovely tales that we have heard or read".

Step 2: Answer:

We have heard or read the lovely tales about "the mighty dead" — the great, noble figures of the past whose grand and glorious legends continue to be told and admired long after their death.

9(b). Read the following extract carefully and answer the question that follows:

And such is the grandeur of the dooms
We have imagined for the mighty dead;
And lovely tales that we have heard or read;
An endless fountain of immortal drink,
Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink.

(b) From where does the immortal drink pour?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Locating the image:

The poet describes an "endless fountain of immortal drink, / Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink."

Step 2: Answer:

The immortal drink pours from "heaven's brink" — i.e., it flows down to us endlessly, like a fountain, from the very edge of heaven.

9(c). Read the following extract carefully and answer the question that follows:

And such is the grandeur of the dooms
We have imagined for the mighty dead;
And lovely tales that we have heard or read;
An endless fountain of immortal drink,
Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink.

(c) Name the poem and the poet of the above lines correctly.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Identifying the source:

These lines are a well-known excerpt used in the NCERT Flamingo poem titled 'A Thing of Beauty', which is itself drawn from a longer poem.

Step 2: Answer:

The poem is '**A Thing of Beauty**' (excerpted from John Keats's longer poem 'Endymion'), and the poet is **John Keats**.

10. Write the central idea of the following poem:

(a) Aunt Jennifer's Tigers.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Overview:

Adrienne Rich's 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' contrasts the bold, free tigers Aunt Jennifer embroiders with her own timid, oppressed existence.

Step 2: Central idea:

The poem highlights how patriarchal marriage suppresses a woman's freedom and individuality — symbolised by the heavy wedding band weighing down Aunt Jennifer's fingers — while her art becomes an outlet for the fearless, confident life she herself never got to live. Even after her death, the tigers she created will continue to "prance, proud and unafraid," outliving the very ordeals that confined her.

OR

Write the central idea of the following poem:

(b) Keeping Quiet.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Overview:

In 'Keeping Quiet', Pablo Neruda calls on humanity to pause — to stop all action, aggression and noise for a brief moment.

Step 2: Central idea:

The poem's central idea is that a moment of stillness and introspection, free from the usual haste and aggression of human life, could promote self-understanding, peace among people, and even healing for the earth itself. Neruda is not advocating total inaction or death, but a reflective pause that could interrupt patterns of conflict, over-activity and exploitation, allowing for genuine renewal.

OR

Write the central idea of the following poem:

(c) A Roadside Stand.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Overview:

Robert Frost's 'A Roadside Stand' depicts poor rural villagers who set up a small stand along a highway to sell wild berries and homemade goods, hoping to earn a little money.

Step 2: Central idea:

The poem's central idea is the stark indifference and exploitation faced by the rural poor at the hands of the wealthier, faster-moving urban world. Passing motorists speed by without a glance, and even the government's promises of development and relocation are shown as hollow and self-serving rather than genuinely helpful, leaving the villagers' simple wish to be noticed and to earn a fair living unmet.



11(a). When did Maharaja decide to give up tiger hunting altogether?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Context:

In Kalki's 'The Tiger King', an astrologer had predicted that the Maharaja's death would come at the hands (or claws) of the hundredth tiger he hunted, driving him to obsessively hunt tigers to eliminate that possibility.

Step 2: Answer:

After finally hunting down what he believed to be his hundredth tiger — a difficult hunt in which the tiger was merely stunned by the shot but was secretly finished off by his men, unknown to him, and presented to him as his own kill — the Maharaja believed he had defeated the astrologer's prophecy. Confident that the danger had passed, he decided to give up tiger hunting altogether.

OR

How was the Professor's wife, at whose house Sadao met Hana?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Context:

In Pearl S. Buck's 'The Enemy', Sadao Hoki met his future wife Hana at the house of the American professor under whom he had studied medicine in the United States.

Step 2: Answer:

The Professor's wife was a kind, cultured, and broad-minded woman who treated Hana — sent there to be introduced to Sadao and to be "finished" in her education — with warmth and grace, showing none of the racial prejudice that might have been expected. Her welcoming, sympathetic nature helped foster the bond between Sadao and Hana that eventually led to their marriage.



11(b). What did Charley say about Galesburg Illinois?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Context:

In Jack Finney's 'The Third Level', Tom recounts to his psychiatrist friend Charley a story about a man named Sam who claimed to have found the mysterious third level of Grand Central Station and escaped into the past, to Galesburg, Illinois, in the year 1894.

Step 2: Answer:

Charley confirmed the story was true by showing Tom old, first-day-cover style letters that Sam (a stamp-collecting acquaintance of Charley's) had mailed from Galesburg in 1894, entrusting them to

Charley to hold as an investment. One of these letters, addressed directly to Charley, revealed that Sam had indeed found the third level, successfully escaped to 1894 Galesburg, was happily settled there running a hay, feed and grain business, and invited Charley to join him if he ever found the third level too.

OR

What was the reply of Zitkala-Sa to Judewin, when she said that they had to submit?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Context:

In 'Memories of Childhood' (the section 'The Cutting of My Long Hair' by Zitkala-Sa), Judewin told Zitkala-Sa that since the palefaces (white missionaries) had all the power, they had no choice but to submit to having their long hair shingled/cut, against their tribal customs.

Step 2: Answer:

Zitkala-Sa defiantly refused to accept this, replying that she would not submit quietly — she declared she would struggle first before giving in. True to her word, she hid herself under a bed to resist, and when she was found and dragged out, she fought, kicked and screamed throughout, even though she was ultimately overpowered and her hair was forcibly cut.

12. Answer any one of the following questions in about 80 words:

(a) Describe 'Grand Central Station' as narrated by Charley in the lesson 'The Third Level'.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Note on narration:

In Jack Finney's 'The Third Level', it is the narrator Tom (not Charley, who is Tom's psychiatrist friend) who personally describes Grand Central Station and his discovery of its mysterious third level; the description itself, however, is accurately given below.

Step 2: Description:

Grand Central Station is portrayed as a huge, maze-like place with officially only two levels of train tracks. One night, while looking for a shortcut, Tom claims to have got lost and stumbled upon a smaller, dingier, old-fashioned *third* level — with old-style wooden ticket booths, gas lamps instead of electric lighting, locomotives with big funnels and headlights, and people dressed in the fashions of a bygone era. This third level, he realised, was actually a gateway into the peaceful, pre-war world of 1894, offering an escape from the stress and anxieties (nuclear fear, high taxes, crime) of modern life.

OR

(b) How did Annan motivate Bama to move ahead in her life leaving behind social discrimination?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Context:

In 'Memories of Childhood' (the section 'We too are Human Beings' by Bama), young Bama was deeply hurt after witnessing the humiliating way people of her (Dalit) community were treated because of their caste.

Step 2: Answer:

Her elder brother, Annan, explained to her that even though they were born into a caste that society looked down upon, they could earn dignity, respect and progress through education. He told her that if she studied hard, gained knowledge and excelled academically, people would come to her on their own to seek her respect, since learning and achievement have no caste. This advice motivated Bama to study with great dedication and determination, and she went on to top her class, gaining friends and recognition — proving her brother's words true.