

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

The old Turkish and the other races, who inhabited Afghanistan and parts of Central Asia before the advent of Islam, were largely Buddhists and earlier still, during the period of the Epics, Hindus. The frontier area was one of the principal centres of old Indian culture and it abounds still with ruins of monuments and monasteries and, specially, of the great University of Taxila, which was at the height of its fame two thousand years ago, attracting students from all over India as well as different parts of Asia. Changes of religion made a difference but could not change entirely the mental backgrounds which the people of those areas had developed.

(a) What religious groups inhabited Afghanistan before the advent of Islam?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Locate the answer in the passage:

The passage states the old Turkish and other races of Afghanistan and Central Asia were largely Buddhists before Islam arrived, and Hindus earlier still, during the period of the Epics.

Step 2: Final Answer:

Before the advent of Islam, the people of Afghanistan were largely **Buddhists**, and earlier still, during the period of the Epics, they were **Hindus**.

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

The old Turkish and the other races, who inhabited Afghanistan and parts of Central Asia before the advent of Islam, were largely Buddhists and earlier still, during the period of the Epics, Hindus. The frontier area was one of the principal centres of old Indian culture and it abounds still with ruins of monuments and monasteries and, specially, of the great University of Taxila, which was at the height of its fame two thousand years ago, attracting students from all over India as well as different parts of Asia. Changes of religion made a difference but could not change entirely the mental backgrounds which the people of those areas had developed.

(b) What is meant by the phrase 'the period of the Epics'?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the phrase in context:

'The Epics' refers to the great ancient Indian epic poems, the

Ramayana and the Mahabharata.

Step 2: Final Answer:

'The period of the Epics' means the ancient era of Indian history associated with the composition and setting of the Ramayana and the Mahabharata, the epic age of early Indian civilisation.

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

The old Turkish and the other races, who inhabited Afghanistan and parts of Central Asia before the advent of Islam, were largely Buddhists and earlier still, during the period of the Epics, Hindus. The frontier area was one of the principal centres of old Indian culture and it abounds still with ruins of monuments and monasteries and, specially, of the great University of Taxila, which was at the height of its fame two thousand years ago, attracting students from all over India as well as different parts of Asia. Changes of religion made a difference but could not change entirely the mental backgrounds which the people of those areas had developed.

(c) What was Taxila famous for?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Find the specific detail:

The passage mentions ruins of monuments and monasteries, and specially the great University of Taxila.

Step 2: Final Answer:

Taxila was famous for its great **University**, which was at the height of its fame about two thousand years ago and attracted students from all over India and different parts of Asia.

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

The old Turkish and the other races, who inhabited Afghanistan and parts of Central Asia before the advent of Islam, were largely Buddhists and earlier still, during the period of the Epics, Hindus. The frontier area was one of the principal centres of old Indian culture and it abounds still with ruins of monuments and monasteries and, specially, of the great University of Taxila, which was at the height of its fame two thousand years ago, attracting students from all over India as well as different parts of Asia. Changes of religion made a difference but could not change entirely the mental backgrounds which the people of those areas had developed.

(d) What has been common to the people of Afghanistan and parts of Central Asia despite their different religions?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the passage's main point:

The passage says changes of religion made a difference but could not change entirely the mental backgrounds which the people had developed.

Step 2: Final Answer:

Despite changing religions over time, the people of this region kept a

common **mental background**, the shared old Indian cultural heritage rooted in the region's history, that religious change could not fully erase.

1(e)(i). Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

The old Turkish and the other races, who inhabited Afghanistan and parts of Central Asia before the advent of Islam, were largely Buddhists and earlier still, during the period of the Epics, Hindus. The frontier area was one of the principal centres of old Indian culture and it abounds still with ruins of monuments and monasteries and, specially, of the great University of Taxila, which was at the height of its fame two thousand years ago, attracting students from all over India as well as different parts of Asia. Changes of religion made a difference but could not change entirely the mental backgrounds which the people of those areas had developed.

(e)(i) Which word in the passage means 'arrival' or 'coming'?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Scan the passage for a matching word:

The opening line uses the word 'advent', meaning the coming or arrival of something (here, Islam).

Step 2: Final Answer:

The word is '**advent**'.

1(e)(ii). Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

The old Turkish and the other races, who inhabited Afghanistan and parts of Central Asia before the advent of Islam, were largely Buddhists and earlier still, during the period of the Epics, Hindus. The frontier area was one of the principal centres of old Indian culture and it abounds still with ruins of monuments and monasteries and, specially, of the great University of Taxila, which was at the height of its fame two thousand years ago, attracting students from all over India as well as different parts of Asia. Changes of religion made a difference but could not change entirely the mental backgrounds which the people of those areas had developed.

(e)(ii) Give the antonym of 'attracting'.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Find the opposite meaning:

'Attracting' means drawing towards; its opposite is driving or pushing away.

Step 2: Final Answer:

The antonym of 'attracting' is '**repelling**' (also acceptable: 'repulsing').

1(e)(iii). Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

The old Turkish and the other races, who inhabited Afghanistan and parts of Central Asia before the advent of Islam, were largely Buddhists and earlier still, during the period of the Epics, Hindus. The frontier area was one of the principal centres of old Indian culture and it abounds still with ruins of monuments and monasteries and, specially, of the great University of Taxila, which was at the height of its fame two thousand years ago, attracting students from all over India as well as different parts of Asia. Changes of religion made a difference but could not change entirely the mental backgrounds which the people of those areas had developed.

(e)(iii) Rewrite the underlined segment ("it abounds still with ruins of monuments") after replacing the word 'abounds' with another similar meaning word.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Find a synonym for 'abounds':

'Abounds' means is full of / teems with.

Step 2: Final Answer:

Rewritten: **"it is still full of ruins of monuments and monasteries."**

2. Write an article on the following topic in about 100-150 words:

Terrorism - a Threat to Mankind.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Introduction:

Terrorism has emerged as one of the gravest threats to peace and security in the modern world, striking at innocent civilians to spread fear for political or ideological ends.

Step 2: Causes and impact:

It is fuelled by extremism, political grievances, and radical propaganda, often spread through social media. Its impact is devastating: loss of innocent lives, destroyed economies, and a climate of constant fear that disrupts normal life and international relations.

Step 3: Solutions:

Combating terrorism requires strong international cooperation, intelligence sharing, tighter border and cyber security, and, just as importantly, addressing root causes like poverty, illiteracy, and radicalisation through education and dialogue.

Step 4: Conclusion:

Only a united global effort combining security measures with social reform can free humanity from this menace and secure a peaceful future for all.

OR

Write an article on the following topic in about 100-150 words: **How can we solve the problem of the shortage of Electric Power in our Country?**

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Introduction:

India faces a persistent shortage of electric power, especially in rural and semi-urban areas, hampering both daily life and industrial growth.

Step 2: Reasons:

The shortage arises from an ever-growing demand outpacing generation capacity, heavy transmission losses, over-dependence on coal, and inadequate investment in newer infrastructure.

Step 3: Solutions:

The problem can be solved by rapidly expanding renewable sources like solar and wind power, modernising the transmission grid to cut losses, promoting energy-efficient appliances, and encouraging citizens to conserve electricity in daily use.

Step 4: Conclusion:

A combination of cleaner generation, smarter distribution, and responsible consumption can help India overcome its power shortage and ensure reliable electricity for all.

OR

Write an article on the following topic in about 100-150 words: **Role of Women in the society these days.**

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Introduction:

The role of women in society has transformed dramatically in recent decades, as they increasingly step into roles once reserved for men.

Step 2: Contributions today:

Women today lead in fields ranging from politics, science, and business to sports and the armed forces, while also continuing to shoulder major responsibility within the family and community.

Step 3: Challenges remaining:

Despite this progress, issues like unequal pay, workplace discrimination, and safety concerns still hold many women back from realising their full potential.

Step 4: Conclusion:

A truly progressive society must ensure equal opportunity, safety, and respect for women in every sphere, recognising them as equal partners in nation-building.

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3. Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily showing your concern over increasing 'Price Rise'.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:**Step 1: Format and opening:**

A formal letter to the editor begins with the sender's address, date, the editor's address, subject line, and salutation.

Step 2: Body:

The letter should state the alarming rise in prices of essential commodities, explain how it is burdening common households, especially the poor and middle class, and appeal to the government through the newspaper to take corrective steps such as controlling hoarding and stabilising supply.

Step 3: Closing:

The letter ends with a request to publish the concern for public awareness, followed by 'Yours truly' and the sender's name.

OR

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

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Format and opening:

A formal letter to the Principal begins with the sender's (student's) address, date, the Principal's designation and college address, subject line, and salutation 'Respected Sir/Madam'.

Step 2: Body:

The letter should politely point out that the college library lacks sufficient copies of prescribed textbooks and reference material, causing inconvenience to students, and request that new copies and additional reference books be procured at the earliest.

Step 3: Closing:

It ends with a respectful request for prompt action, followed by 'Yours obediently', the student's name, class, and roll number.



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

- (A) Ramu is a shameless person.
- (B) My cousin is not foolish.
- (C) You do not seem wide spoken.
- (D) He is candid when he speaks.

Correct Answer: (D) He is candid when he speaks.

Solution:

Step 1: Recall the meaning of 'frank':

'Frank' means open, honest, and straightforward in speech.

Step 2: Check each option:

'Shameless' means without shame, 'foolish' means unwise, 'wide spoken' is not standard usage, while 'candid' means open and honest, exactly matching 'frank'.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct option is **(iv) candid**.



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

- (A) Good - Nice
- (B) Bad - Worst
- (C) Worse - Better
- (D) Best - Superior

Correct Answer: (C) Worse - Better

Solution:

Step 1: Understand 'antonym':

An antonym pair consists of two words with opposite meanings.

Step 2: Check each pair:

Good-Nice are synonyms; Bad-Worst are both negative (degrees of the same word); Best-Superior are near synonyms; Worse-Better are opposite in direction (inferior vs. superior).

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct option is **(iii) Worse - Better.**

4(c). 'A bone of contention' means:

- (A) Quarrelsome
- (B) A disturbing person
- (C) Reason of quarrel
- (D) With a reason

Correct Answer: (C) Reason of quarrel

Solution:

Step 1: Recall the idiom:

'A bone of contention' is an idiom referring to the subject or cause over which people argue or fight.

Step 2: Match to the options:

It refers to the cause/reason of a dispute, not a person's trait ('quarrelsome') or a person ('a disturbing person').

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct option is **(iii) Reason of quarrel.**



4(d). One who takes the bright side of a thing is:

- (A) Brighten
- (B) Foreteller
- (C) Optimist
- (D) Pessimist

Correct Answer: (C) Optimist

Solution:

Step 1: Recall the one-word substitution:

A person who always looks at the positive/hopeful side of things is called an optimist.

Step 2: Check the distractors:

'Brighten' is a verb not a person, 'Foreteller' means one who predicts the future, and 'Pessimist' is the opposite, one who expects the worst.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct option is **(iii) Optimist.**



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

- (A) There is a number of books in the library.
- (B) Many sheeps are grazing in the fields.
- (C) The news of his death is true.
- (D) Thousands of rupees was spent.

Correct Answer: (C) The news of his death is true.

Solution:

Step 1: Check each sentence for grammar errors:

'A number of' takes a plural verb, so 'There is a number of books' should be 'There are a number of books' (error). 'Sheep' is already plural, so 'sheeps' is wrong (error). 'News' is an uncountable noun that takes a singular verb, so 'The news...is true' is correct. 'Thousands of rupees' is a plural subject, so it needs 'were', not 'was' (error).

Step 2: Final Answer:

The correct option is **(iii) The news of his death is true.**



5(a). Change into indirect speech: He said to me, "What did you do yesterday?"

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Rule for interrogative reported speech:

A wh-question in direct speech is reported by using 'asked' and keeping the question word, without an inverted question form, and changing the tense back one step.

Step 2: Apply tense and pronoun changes:

'Said to me' becomes 'asked me'; 'did you do' (past simple) shifts to 'had done' (past perfect); 'yesterday' becomes 'the day before' / 'the previous day'.

Step 3: Final Answer:

He asked me what I had done the day before.

OR

Change into indirect speech: She said to her friend, "Please, help me today."

Correct Answer: —

Solution:**Step 1: Rule for imperative/request reported speech:**

A polite request beginning with 'Please' is reported using 'requested' and the infinitive form of the verb.

Step 2: Apply the changes:

'Said to her friend' becomes 'requested her friend'; 'help me' becomes 'to help her'; 'today' becomes 'that day'.

Step 3: Final Answer:

She requested her friend to help her that day.

5(b). Combine as directed: I am so tired. I cannot run. (Into a Complex Sentence)

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the relationship between the clauses:

The two simple sentences express a cause-result relationship (tiredness causing inability to run), which a complex sentence expresses using a subordinating conjunction like 'so...that'.

Step 2: Combine into one complex sentence:

Join the ideas using the correlative 'so...that' structure.

Step 3: Final Answer:

I am so tired that I cannot run.

OR

Combine as directed: This question is very difficult. I cannot solve it. (Into a Simple Sentence)

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Reduce two clauses to one:

A simple sentence has only one finite verb, so the reason clause must be reduced to a phrase.

Step 2: Convert the cause into a phrase:

'This question is very difficult' becomes a prepositional phrase of

reason.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Owing to the great difficulty of this question, I cannot solve it.



5(c). Change as directed: He did not help the poor man. (Into Passive Voice)

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Identify subject, verb and object:

Subject: He; Verb: did not help (past simple negative); Object: the poor man.

Step 2: Apply the passive rule:

Object becomes subject, the auxiliary 'was/were' + past participle is used, and the original subject becomes the agent introduced by 'by'.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The poor man was not helped by him.

OR

Change as directed: Their glory can never fade. (Interrogative Sentence)

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Convert an affirmative statement to a question:

'Can never' in an affirmative statement is turned into a rhetorical negative question using 'Can...ever'.

Step 2: Rearrange word order:

The modal 'can' moves before the subject, and 'never' becomes 'ever' in the question form.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Can their glory ever fade?



5(d). Correct the following sentence: Rich men should help the poors.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the grammatical error:

'The poor' used to mean 'poor people' is already a plural collective noun (an adjective used as a plural noun) and never takes an 's'.

Step 2: Correct it:

Remove the incorrect 's' from 'poors'.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Rich men should help the poor.

OR

Correct the following sentence: I prefer a pen than a pencil.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the grammatical error:

The verb 'prefer' is idiomatically followed by 'to', not 'than', when comparing two things.

Step 2: Correct it:

Replace 'than' with 'to'.

Step 3: Final Answer:

I prefer a pen to a pencil.



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

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Understand each word's meaning:

'Umpire' is a person who officiates and enforces rules in a game/sport; 'empire' is a large group of territories or countries ruled by a single authority.

Step 2: Use each in a clear sentence:

Frame one sentence per word that makes the distinct meaning obvious.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Umpire: The umpire gave a fair decision in the cricket match.

Empire: The British Empire once ruled over a large part of the world.

OR

Use the following pair of words in sentences to make the difference in their meanings clear: Fair - fare

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Understand each word's meaning:

'Fair' means just/unbiased, or a public exhibition/carnival; 'fare' means the money charged for a journey.

Step 2: Use each in a clear sentence:

Frame one sentence per word that makes the distinct meaning obvious.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Fair: The judge gave a fair decision. **Fare:** What is the bus fare to the railway station?

6. Translate the following passage into English: "मुंशी प्रेमचंद एक महान साहित्यकार हुए हैं। उनका जन्म एक छोटे गाँव के एक साधारण परिवार में हुआ था। फिर भी वे पूरे विश्व में प्रसिद्ध हुए। हिन्दी तथा उर्दू, दोनों भाषाओं पर उनका समान अधिकार था। कहानियाँ तथा उपन्यास लिखने में वे कुशल थे। उनकी कहानियों में भारतीय समाज का सजीव चित्रण मिलता है। उनकी रचनाओं का संसार की अधिकांश भाषाओं में अनुवाद हुआ है। उन्हें उपन्यास-सम्राट कहा जाता है। कम पढ़े लिखे लोग भी उनकी पुस्तकें रुचि के साथ पढ़ते हैं।"

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Translate sentence by sentence:

Render each Hindi sentence into natural, grammatically correct English while preserving the original meaning and order of ideas.

Step 2: Final Answer:

Munshi Premchand was a great litterateur. He was born into an ordinary family in a small village. Yet he became famous the world over. He had equal command over both languages, Hindi and Urdu. He was skilled in writing stories and novels. A vivid portrayal of Indian society is found in his stories. His works have been translated into most of the languages of the world. He is called the 'Emperor of Novels'. Even less-educated people read his books with great interest.

7(a). Answer the following question in about 40 words: What was the importance of garbage for children in Seemapuri? (from 'Lost Spring' by Anees Jung)

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Recall the chapter's context:

In 'Lost Spring', the ragpicker children of Seemapuri survive by sifting through garbage every day.

Step 2: Final Answer:

For the children of Seemapuri, garbage was a means of survival, it gave them food, and sometimes something valuable like a coin or a rupee note. To them, garbage was even wrapped in wonder, sometimes literally meaning 'gold' since it provided their daily bread.

OR

Why did M. Hamel declare that the lesson he was going to teach on that fateful day was to be the last lesson? (from 'The Last Lesson' by Alphonse Daudet)

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Recall the historical setting:

The story is set in Alsace, France, after the region was ceded to Prussia following the Franco-Prussian War.

Step 2: Final Answer:

M. Hamel declared it the last lesson because an order had come from Berlin that only German would be taught in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine from then on, so this was to be the final lesson in French.

7(b). Answer the following question in about 40 words: Who was the rattrap seller? How did he make rattraps? (from 'The Rattrap' by Selma Lagerlof)

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Recall the character:

The rattrap seller was a poor, homeless peddler who wandered the countryside.

Step 2: Final Answer:

The rattrap seller was a poor vagabond who roamed the countryside selling homemade rattraps. He made the rattraps himself out of pieces of wire, twisting and bending them into small cages, which he sold to earn a meagre living, sometimes begging or stealing when trade was poor.

OR

Why did Gandhiji chide the lawyers of Muzaffarpur? (from 'Indigo' by Louis Fischer)

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Recall the episode:

Gandhiji met the lawyers of Muzaffarpur while investigating the plight of indigo sharecroppers.

Step 2: Final Answer:

Gandhiji chided the lawyers of Muzaffarpur because they were charging the poor, oppressed peasants heavy fees for handling their legal cases, even though the peasants could barely afford it. He felt this was wrong when the sharecroppers were already suffering under the indigo planters.

8. Answer the following question in about 80 words: What did Douglas decide to overcome his fear of water? (from 'Deep Water' by William O. Douglas)

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Recall the chapter:

After a childhood incident of near-drowning left Douglas terrified of water, he resolved to conquer this fear rather than live with it.

Step 2: Final Answer:

Douglas decided to hire a professional swimming instructor and practised systematically over many days: first working on kicking with a rope tied around his chest, then arm movements, then breathing, and finally putting them all together in the pool, before testing himself in a lake and diving into Lake Wentworth, to be completely free of fear.

OR

Describe the life of people working in the glass bangle industry. (from 'Lost Spring' by Anees Jung)

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Recall the Firozabad section:

The chapter describes the bangle-makers of Firozabad, a town famous for glass-blowing.

Step 2: Final Answer:

The bangle-makers of Firozabad work in cramped, dingy houses without ventilation, next to hot furnaces, often losing their eyesight before adulthood. Poverty, caste-based tradition, and exploitative moneylenders and middlemen keep generation after generation trapped in this hazardous work, with no unions, cooperatives, or access to bank loans to help them escape it.



9. Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions that follow (from 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' by Adrienne Rich):

Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen,
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green.
They do not fear the men beneath the tree;
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.

(a) How do Jennifer's tigers behave?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Read the extract closely:

The tigers are described as prancing confidently across the screen, unafraid of anything.

Step 2: Final Answer:

Jennifer's tigers prance boldly and confidently across the

screen, moving fearlessly through their embroidered green world.

9(b). Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions that follow (from 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' by Adrienne Rich):

Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen,
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green.
They do not fear the men beneath the tree;
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.

(b) Why do the tigers not fear the men beneath the tree?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the symbolism:

The tigers are creatures of Aunt Jennifer's imagination, embroidered onto a screen, existing in a fantasy world free of the real constraints she herself suffers under.

Step 2: Final Answer:

They do not fear the men beneath the tree because they are imaginary, embroidered creatures living in a free, fantasy world Aunt Jennifer has created, a world where she has given them the courage and freedom that she herself lacks in her real, oppressed married life.

9(c). Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions that follow (from 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' by Adrienne Rich):

Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen,
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green.
They do not fear the men beneath the tree;
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.

(c) How do the tigers pace?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Locate the exact line:

The extract states, 'They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.'

Step 2: Final Answer:

The tigers pace with sleek, graceful, chivalric certainty, moving like brave, confident knights, sure and unafraid.

10. Write the central idea of the following poem: A Thing of Beauty (by John Keats)

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Recall the poem's core message:

Keats opens with the famous line 'A thing of beauty is a joy forever'.

Step 2: Final Answer:

The central idea is that beautiful things never fade into nothingness; they continue to give joy, remove gloom and despondency from our lives, and connect generations of humanity through a bond of love and hope, acting like an endless source of comfort despite life's suffering.

OR

Write the central idea of the following poem: Keeping Quiet (by Pablo Neruda)

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Recall the poem's core message:

Neruda calls on humanity to pause, in stillness, without the usual rush and aggression of daily life.

Step 2: Final Answer:

The central idea is a call for a moment of collective introspection and stillness, setting aside war, exploitation, and hurried activity, so that humans can self-reflect, understand themselves better, and develop a sense of brotherhood and connection with life and nature.

OR

Write the central idea of the following poem: My Mother at Sixty-six (by Kamala Das)

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Recall the poem's core message:

While driving to the airport, the poet notices her mother's pale, aged face and is struck by the fear of losing her.

Step 2: Final Answer:

The central idea is the poet's realisation of her mother's approaching old age and mortality, and the pain and fear that comes with it, momentarily consoled by the sight of young, smiling children outside, before she bids her mother a smiling but sorrowful goodbye, capturing the universal ache of watching a parent age.



11(a). Answer the following question in about 40 words: Who was Hana? How did she meet Dr. Sadao? (from 'The Enemy' by Pearl S. Buck)

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Recall the characters:

Hana is Dr. Sadao's wife in the story 'The Enemy'.

Step 2: Final Answer:

Hana was Dr. Sadao's wife. They met while Sadao was studying medicine in America, where Hana, also a Japanese student there, caught his attention; he made sure she was of pure, respectable Japanese lineage before marrying her upon their return to Japan.

OR

Why was the programme 'Students on Ice' so successful? (from 'Journey to the End of the Earth' by Tishani Doshi)

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Recall the chapter's purpose:

The programme took young students to Antarctica to witness climate change firsthand.

Step 2: Final Answer:

'Students on Ice' was successful because it exposed young people directly to Antarctica's pristine but fragile environment, making the abstract science of climate change real and personal for them, and inspiring many participants to become environmentally responsible ambassadors and changemakers in their own countries.

11(b). What was the third level? Where was it situated? (from 'The Third Level' by Jack Finney)

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Recall the story's central idea:

Charley, the protagonist, believes he found an extra, secret level at Grand Central Station.

Step 2: Final Answer:

The third level was an extra, mysterious level of the Grand

Central Station in New York, existing beyond the two known levels, leading back into the year 1894, which Charley claimed to have discovered, representing an imaginative escape from the anxieties of modern life.

OR

Why did the Tiger King decide to marry? (from 'The Tiger King' by Kalki)

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Recall the plot:

Astrologers predicted the Tiger King would die at the hands of the hundredth tiger, so he was determined to kill 100 tigers before that could happen.

Step 2: Final Answer:

The Tiger King decided to marry mainly to have a male heir, so that if he himself failed to kill the hundredth tiger and fulfil the astrologer's prophecy, his son could carry forward the mission of hunting the fateful hundredth tiger and continue the royal legacy.

12. Answer the following question in about 80 words: Why did the king kill the hundredth tiger? (from 'The Tiger King' by Kalki)

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Recall the prophecy:

Astrologers had predicted that the Tiger King's death would come from the hundredth tiger he hunted.

Step 2: Final Answer:

Having already killed ninety-nine tigers, the Tiger King was determined to kill the hundredth tiger himself in order to defy and disprove the astrologer's prophecy of his death, protecting both his life and his royal pride as an unbeatable tiger-hunter, refusing to let fate dictate his end.

OR

Why is Antarctica the place to go if we want to study the earth's past, present and future? (from 'Journey to the End of the Earth' by Tishani Doshi)

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Recall the chapter's scientific content:

Antarctica's ice sheets and isolation make it a unique natural record and laboratory.

Step 2: Final Answer:

Antarctica preserves a nearly untouched natural record: its ice cores hold data going back hundreds of thousands of years, revealing Earth's past climate; its currently fragile, changing ecosystem shows the live effects of global warming in the present; and as one of the last pristine wildernesses,

studying it helps scientists predict future climate trends, making it a one-of-a-kind natural laboratory.