

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

A few years ago, a well-to-do man appointed an officer to look after the prisoners who worked in his fields. The officer was a man of good sense and sympathetic nature. He tried his best to manage the men by better means than fear. He gave them better food and paid them more for extra work. When a prisoner stole something, the officer called all the prisoners together and said, "There is a thief amongst you. Find him out yourselves and punish him as you like. I do not wish to punish him myself." The prisoners realized that the officer was so good to them, he wanted that they should reform themselves. So they found out the thief and punished him. In this way, the prisoners gave up their evil habits and they became good citizens.

a) What kind of officer did the well-to-do man appoint?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The passage opens by describing the character of the officer the well-to-do man chose.

Step 2: Locating the Answer:

The text states directly that ‘the officer was a man of good sense and sympathetic nature.’

Final Answer:

The well-to-do man appointed an officer who was a man of good sense and sympathetic nature.

1(b). A few years ago, a well-to-do man appointed an officer to look after the prisoners who worked in his fields. The officer was a man of good sense and sympathetic nature. He tried his best to manage the men by better means than fear. He gave them better food and paid them more for extra work. When a prisoner stole something, the officer called all the prisoners together and said, “There is a thief amongst you. Find him out yourselves and punish him as you like. I do not wish to punish him myself.” The prisoners realized that the officer was so good to them, he wanted that they should reform themselves. So they found out the thief and punished him. In this way, the prisoners gave up their evil habits and they became good citizens.

b) How did the officer treat the prisoners?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Question:**

The question asks for the officer's method of managing the prisoners.

Step 2: Locating the Answer:

The passage says he tried to manage the men by better means than fear, gave them better food, and paid them more for extra work.

Final Answer:

The officer treated the prisoners kindly — he managed them through goodness rather than fear, gave them better food, and paid them extra for additional work.

1(c). A few years ago, a well-to-do man appointed an officer to look after the prisoners who worked in his fields. The officer was a man of good sense and sympathetic nature. He tried his best to manage the men by better means than fear. He gave them better food and paid them more for extra work. When a prisoner stole something, the officer called all the prisoners together and said, “There is a thief amongst you. Find him out yourselves and punish him as you like. I do not wish to punish him myself.” The prisoners realized that the officer was so good to them, he wanted that they should reform themselves. So they found out the thief and punished him. In this way, the prisoners gave up their evil habits and they became good citizens.

c) What did he do when one of the prisoners had stolen something?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks about the officer's response to the theft.

Step 2: Locating the Answer:

He called all the prisoners together and told them to find the thief themselves and punish him, since he did not wish to punish the thief himself.

Final Answer:

He gathered all the prisoners and told them a thief was among them; he asked them to find and punish the thief themselves, as he did not wish to punish him personally.

1(d). A few years ago, a well-to-do man appointed an officer to look after the prisoners who worked in his fields. The officer was a man of good sense and sympathetic nature. He tried his best to manage the men by better means than fear. He gave them better food and paid them more for extra work. When a prisoner stole something, the officer called all the prisoners together and said, “There is a thief amongst you. Find him out yourselves and punish him as you like. I do not wish to punish him myself.” The prisoners realized that the officer was so good to them, he wanted that they should reform themselves. So they found out the thief and punished him. In this way, the prisoners gave up their evil habits and they became good citizens.

d) How did his goodness influence the prisoners?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Question:**

The question asks about the effect of the officer's kindness on the prisoners' behaviour.

Step 2: Locating the Answer:

Realising his goodness, they found out and punished the thief themselves, gave up their evil habits, and became good citizens.

Final Answer:

His goodness made the prisoners realise he wanted them to reform themselves; as a result, they found and punished the thief, gave up their evil habits, and became good citizens.

1(e)(i). A few years ago, a well-to-do man appointed an officer to look after the prisoners who worked in his fields. The officer was a man of good sense and sympathetic nature. He tried his best to manage the men by better means than fear. He gave them better food and paid them more for extra work. When a prisoner stole something, the officer called all the prisoners together and said, “There is a thief amongst you. Find him out yourselves and punish him as you like. I do not wish to punish him myself.” The prisoners realized that the officer was so good to them, he wanted that they should reform themselves. So they found out the thief and punished him. In this way, the prisoners gave up their evil habits and they became good citizens.

e) i) Which word in the passage means 'rich'?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Locating the Word:

The passage opens with 'a well-to-do man', where 'well-to-do' means financially prosperous.

Final Answer:

'Well-to-do' means rich.

1(e)(ii). A few years ago, a well-to-do man appointed an officer to look after the prisoners who worked in his fields. The officer was a man of good sense and sympathetic nature. He tried his best to manage the men by better means than fear. He gave them better food and paid them more for extra work. When a prisoner stole something, the officer called all the prisoners together and said, “There is a thief amongst you. Find him out yourselves and punish him as you like. I do not wish to punish him myself.” The prisoners realized that the officer was so good to them, he wanted that they should reform themselves. So they found out the thief and punished him. In this way, the prisoners gave up their evil habits and they became good citizens.

e) ii) Which word in the passage is opposite to 'worse'?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Locating the Word:

The passage mentions the officer managed the men 'by better means than fear' — 'better' is the opposite of 'worse'.

Final Answer:

'Better' is opposite to 'worse'.

1(e)(iii). A few years ago, a well-to-do man appointed an officer to look after the prisoners who worked in his fields. The officer was a man of good sense and sympathetic nature. He tried his best to manage the men by better means than fear. He gave them better food and paid them more for extra work. When a prisoner stole something, the officer called all the prisoners together and said, “There is a thief amongst you. Find him out yourselves and punish him as you like. I do not wish to punish him myself.” The prisoners realized that the officer was so good to them, he wanted that they should reform themselves. So they found out the thief and punished him. In this way, the prisoners gave up their evil habits and they became good citizens.

e) iii) Rewrite the underlined segment after replacing the word 'reform' with another similar meaning word. (Underlined: 'they should reform themselves')

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Task:

Replace 'reform' with a synonym of similar meaning — e.g. 'improve' or 'correct'.

Step 2: Rewriting the Sentence:

'they should reform themselves' becomes 'they should improve themselves'.

Final Answer:

They should improve themselves.

2. Write an article on the following topic in about 100–150 words:
'Measures to eradicate dowry system.'

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Introduction:

Open by stating that dowry is a deep-rooted social evil that continues to oppress women in India despite being legally banned.

Step 2: Body — Measures:

1) Strict enforcement of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 with fast-track courts for complaints. 2) Mass awareness campaigns through schools, media, and community leaders. 3) Promoting women's education and financial independence so marriage is not seen as a financial transaction. 4) Encouraging simple, registered marriages without lavish exchange of gifts. 5) Social boycott and community pressure against families who demand dowry.

Step 3: Conclusion:

End by affirming that a combination of strict law enforcement, education, and changed social attitudes can eradicate dowry.

Final Answer:

Eradicating the Dowry System

Dowry remains one of independent India's most persistent social evils, driving women into exploitation and even violence despite decades of legislation against it. Eradicating it demands action on several fronts. First, the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 must be enforced strictly, with fast-track courts ensuring speedy justice for victims. Second, awareness campaigns in schools, colleges and villages should teach young people that dowry is both illegal and morally wrong. Third, educating and financially empowering women

reduces the perception of a daughter as a 'burden' to be married off with payment. Fourth, communities should encourage simple, registered marriages instead of extravagant dowry-laden weddings, and openly shame families who demand dowry. Finally, parents themselves must refuse to give or take dowry, setting an example for the next generation. Only a combined effort of law, education and changed social attitude can free society from this evil once and for all.

OR

Write an article on the following topic in about 100–150 words: “Free woman's education in all Government and non-Government institutions.”

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Introduction:

Open by saying that women's education lifts the whole family and society, yet fees push many girls out of school.

Step 2: Body — Measures:

1) Free tuition, books and uniforms in every Government and non-Government institution. 2) Reimbursement of private institutions by the Government, with regular inspection. 3) Safe hostels and transport. 4) Fewer child marriages and better health and income for educated women.

Step 3: Conclusion:

End by stating that free education for women is an investment in the nation's future.

Final Answer:

Free Education for Women

Educating a woman educates the whole family, yet many Indian girls

still leave school because their parents cannot pay fees. Making women's education free in all Government and non-Government institutions would remove this barrier at once. Free tuition, books and uniforms would encourage poor families to keep their daughters in school and college. Educated women marry later, earn better and raise healthier, more literate children. Free education also weakens child marriage and gives women the confidence to fight evils such as dowry and domestic violence. The scheme must include private institutions too, with the Government reimbursing their fees and inspecting them regularly, and safe hostels and transport should go with it. A nation that educates its women for free invests directly in its own future.

OR

Write an article on the following topic in about 100–150 words: 'Strict measures to ensure free and fair elections.'

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Introduction:

Open by saying that a democracy's value depends on elections being free and fair.

Step 2: Body — Measures:

1) An independent and powerful Election Commission. 2) Limits and audits on election spending, and a bar on criminals contesting. 3) Secure voting machines with paper trails and strong booth security. 4) Voter awareness and fast-track courts for election disputes. 5) Media and citizens as watchdogs.

Step 3: Conclusion:

End by stating that honest voting and counting strengthen

democracy.

Final Answer:

Free and Fair Elections

Elections are the heart of a democracy, and their value depends on being free and fair. Strict measures can protect them. First, the Election Commission must be independent and powerful enough to punish violations quickly. Second, money power must be curbed by limiting expenses and auditing accounts, and criminals should be barred from contesting. Third, secure Electronic Voting Machines with paper trails and heavy security at booths can stop rigging and booth capturing. Fourth, awareness campaigns should teach voters to vote without fear or temptation, and fast-track courts should settle election disputes. Finally, the media and citizens must act as watchdogs. When every vote is cast freely and counted honestly, democracy grows stronger.



- 3.** Write a letter to the editor of a national daily, complaining against raging contagious diseases in your locality.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Format:

Sender's address, date, receiver's address (Editor, [Newspaper], City), subject line, salutation.

Step 2: Body:

Paragraph 1: introduce the problem — rising cases of contagious disease (e.g. dengue/viral fever) in your locality due to poor sanitation and stagnant water. Paragraph 2: describe the impact —

schools/shops affected, hospitals overcrowded. Paragraph 3: request action — fogging, drainage cleaning, awareness camps by the municipal corporation.

Step 3: Closing:

Thank the editor for space, sign off with 'Yours faithfully' and name.

Final Answer:

123, Civil Lines

Lucknow

15 March 2026

The Editor

The National Herald

Lucknow

Subject: Rising contagious diseases in our locality

Sir,

Through the columns of your esteemed newspaper, I wish to draw the attention of the civic authorities to the alarming spread of contagious diseases such as dengue and viral fever in our locality. Stagnant water in open drains and irregular garbage collection have created ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes, and several families, including children and the elderly, have fallen seriously ill in the past month. Local hospitals are already overcrowded, and the situation threatens to worsen with the approaching monsoon.

I request the municipal corporation to undertake immediate fogging operations, ensure regular cleaning of drains, and organise health awareness camps to educate residents on preventive measures.

Prompt action now can prevent a full-blown health crisis later.

I hope you will find space for this letter in your esteemed daily and

draw the concerned authorities' attention to this urgent matter.

Yours faithfully,
Rohan Verma

OR

Write an application to your Principal requesting him to grant you full fee concession, on the basis of poverty.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Format:

Sender's address, date, receiver's address (The Principal, [School name]), subject line, salutation.

Step 2: Body:

Paragraph 1: introduce yourself (class, roll number). Paragraph 2: explain your family's financial hardship (e.g. father's low income/loss of job) preventing fee payment. Paragraph 3: request full fee concession, mentioning your good academic record as justification.

Step 3: Closing:

Respectful closing — 'Yours obediently', name, class, roll number.

Final Answer:

The Principal
Government Inter College
Lucknow

Subject: Request for full fee concession

Respected Sir,

I am a student of Class XII in your esteemed institution, roll number 24. I wish to bring to your kind notice that my father, the sole earning member of our family, has recently lost his job, leaving our household in severe financial difficulty. Under these circumstances, it has become extremely difficult for my family to pay my school fees. I have consistently maintained good academic performance and stood among the top rank-holders of my class in the previous sessions. I humbly request you to kindly grant me a full fee concession so that I may continue my education without interruption. I shall be extremely grateful for your kind consideration.

Yours obediently,
Amit Kumar
Class XII, Roll No. 24

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

- (A) Rahim is a decent man.
- (B) He is a man of high moral.
- (C) Many people avoid doing immoral deeds.
- (D) Shyam abstains himself from doing illegal activities.

Correct Answer: (C) Many people avoid doing immoral deeds.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Word:

'Obscene' means indecent, offensive to accepted standards of decency or morality.

Step 2: Checking the Options:

'Decent' (i) and 'moral' (ii) mean the opposite. 'Immoral' (iii) is the

closest synonym — lacking moral principles, indecent. 'Illegal' (iv) refers to law-breaking, not indecency specifically.

Final Answer:

(iii) Many people avoid doing immoral deeds — 'immoral' is the synonym of 'obscene'.



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

- (A) Security — Safety
- (B) Summit — Top
- (C) Ability — Inability
- (D) Enough — Sufficient

Correct Answer: (C) Ability — Inability

Solution:

Step 1: Checking Each Pair:

(i) Security–Safety are synonyms. (ii) Summit–Top are synonyms. (iii) Ability–Inability are opposites — having a skill vs. lacking it. (iv) Enough–Sufficient are synonyms.

Final Answer:

(iii) Ability — Inability is the pair of antonyms.



4(c). The phrase 'come across' means:

- (A) to meet by chance
- (B) to meet daily
- (C) to meet frequently
- (D) to meet weekly

Correct Answer: (A) to meet by chance

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Phrase:

'Come across' is an idiomatic phrasal verb meaning to encounter or find something unexpectedly, i.e. 'to meet by chance'.

Final Answer:

(i) To meet by chance.



4(d). 'What cannot be heard' is:

- (A) unspeakable
- (B) irritable
- (C) inaudible
- (D) unsuitable

Correct Answer: (C) inaudible

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Definition:

A single word meaning 'that which cannot be heard' is 'inaudible' (in- = not, audible = able to be heard).

Final Answer:

(iii) Inaudible.



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

- (A) The board have decided to elect two new members.
- (B) The poor is unhappy.
- (C) More than one men were rewarded.
- (D) You are junior to me.

Correct Answer: (D) You are junior to me.

Solution:**Step 1: Checking Each Option:**

(i) 'The board have decided' — in standard usage a collective noun like 'board' takes a singular verb ('has'), so this is non-standard. (ii) 'The poor is unhappy' is wrong — 'the poor' refers to poor people (plural) and needs 'are'. (iii) 'More than one men were rewarded' is wrong — 'more than one' is followed by a singular noun and verb ('man was'). (iv) 'You are junior to me' is grammatically correct — 'junior to' is the correct preposition usage.

Final Answer:

(iv) You are junior to me — this is the grammatically correct sentence.



5(a). Change into indirect narration: 'Shall I ever see my brother-in-law again?' Ramu wondered.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Identifying the Structure:

This is a question reported through 'wondered', so it becomes an indirect question introduced by 'if/whether', with the tense and pronoun shifted back.

Final Answer:

Ramu wondered if/whether he would ever see his brother-in-law again.

OR

Change into indirect narration: My father said to me, 'Do not wash your hands here.'

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Identifying the Structure:

This is a negative imperative/command, reported using 'told... not to', with pronouns and place reference shifted appropriately.

Final Answer:

My father told me not to wash my hands there.



5(b). Combine into a Simple sentence: Sheela is very weak in Physics. She cannot pass the examination.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Identifying the Relationship:

The first clause gives the reason for the second — combine using a participial/prepositional phrase to make one simple sentence.

Final Answer:

Being very weak in Physics, Sheela cannot pass the examination.

OR

Combine into a Complex sentence: Govind is too terrified to speak.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Identifying the Relationship:

'Too...to' constructions convert into a complex sentence using 'so...that' with a subordinate clause of result.

Final Answer:

Govind is so terrified that he cannot speak.



5(c). Transform into Passive Voice: Do not do this work.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Identifying the Structure:

This is a negative imperative. Passive imperatives are formed with 'Let + object + not + be + past participle'.

Final Answer:

Let this work not be done (by you).

OR

Transform into an Interrogative sentence: Her glamour can never fade.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:**Step 1: Identifying the Structure:**

An affirmative sentence with 'never' converts to a rhetorical negative question, inverting the subject and auxiliary and replacing 'never' with 'ever'.

Final Answer:

Can her glamour ever fade?



5(d). Correct the sentence: Ramesh is senior than me in service.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:**Step 1: Identifying the Error:**

'Senior' is a Latin-origin comparative adjective and is followed by 'to', not 'than'.

Final Answer:

Ramesh is senior to me in service.

OR

Correct the sentence: Dinu died from cholera.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Identifying the Error:

One 'dies of' a disease, and 'dies from' an injury, wound, or external cause; cholera is a disease.

Final Answer:

Dinu died of cholera.



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

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Words:

'Berth' is a sleeping place on a train/ship; 'Birth' refers to being born.

Final Answer:

We booked a lower berth for our overnight train journey. / Her birth was celebrated with great joy by the whole family.

OR

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

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Words:

'Cheque' is a written order to a bank to pay money; 'Check' means to verify or examine.

Final Answer:

He paid the electricity bill by cheque. / Please check your answers carefully before submitting the paper.



6. Translate the following passage into English:

रात अंधेरी थी। घड़ी में बारह बज रहे थे। कुत्ते भी भौंक रहे थे। रामराज गहरी नींद में सो रहा था। मैं शोर-गुल सुनकर अकस्मात जाग उठा। रामराज को भी आवाज लगाई। हम दोनों ने देखा कि कुछ लोग एक ही दिशा में भाग रहे थे। कुछ देर में ज्ञात हुआ कि पड़ोस के मकान में आग लग गयी थी।

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Reading for Meaning:

Identify the sequence of events: dark night, midnight, barking dogs, Ramraj asleep, narrator woken by noise, both see people running, learn of a fire next door.

Step 2: Translating Sentence by Sentence:

Render each clause into natural English while preserving tense and sequence.

Final Answer:

The night was dark. It was twelve o'clock. The dogs were tired of barking again and again. Ramraj was sleeping deeply. I suddenly woke up on hearing the noise. I woke Ramraj too. Both of us saw that some people were running in the same direction. After a while, it was learnt that a house in the neighbourhood had caught fire.



7(a). What did the peasants pay the British landlords as rent and why? (from 'Indigo')

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Recalling the Text:

Under the tinkathia system described in Louis Fischer's 'Indigo', peasants in Champaran were forced by British landlords to grow indigo on three-twentieths ($\frac{3}{20}$ th) of their total land as a condition of their tenancy.

Step 2: Explaining Why:

The landlords wanted indigo because it was a highly profitable cash crop for the international dye market; peasants paid it as rent instead of money because the landlords compelled cultivation as a lease condition, benefiting from cheap forced labour and produce.

Final Answer:

The peasants had to grow and hand over indigo, cultivated on $\frac{3}{20}$ th of their land under the tinkathia system, as rent to the British landlords, because indigo was a highly profitable export crop and the landlords used their power as lease-holders to force this arrangement for their own commercial gain.

OR

What had been put up on the bulletin board? (from 'The Third Level')

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Recalling the Text:

In Jack Finney's 'The Third Level', Charley's stamp-collecting leads him into contact with the world of the elusive, mysterious third level of Grand Central Station.

Step 2: Identifying the Detail:

Among the clues supporting that his psychiatrist friend Sam actually escaped into the past via the third level, Charley learns of an old advertisement/folder for a fishing resort in Galesburg that had, in reality, shut down decades earlier — evidence tied to Sam's disappearance into 1894.

Final Answer:

A notice/folder advertising a fishing resort at Galesburg had been put up — a resort Charley later discovers had actually closed down long ago, which becomes one of the clues suggesting his friend Sam had truly vanished into the past through the third level.



7(b). What was the content of the letter written by the peddler to Edla? (from 'The Rattrap')

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Recalling the Text:

In Selma Lagerlöf's 'The Rattrap', the peddler, who had stolen thirty kronor from the crofter and was later treated with dignity and respect by Edla at the ironmaster's house, ultimately chose not to run away with the stolen money.

Step 2: Content of the Letter:

He left a letter addressed to Edla, signed 'Captain von Ståhle', thanking her for treating him like a captain rather than a thief — for seeing and honouring his human dignity. He returned the stolen money, and as a Christmas gift, left her the rattrap itself, saying he wished to give her something valuable to remember him by, since she had shown him kindness when the whole world had treated him only with suspicion.

Final Answer:

The peddler's letter, signed 'Captain von Ståhle', thanked Edla for treating him with respect and honouring him as a human being rather than judging him as a thief; he returned the stolen money and left her his rattrap as a Christmas present, in gratitude for restoring his faith in human goodness.

OR

What was the childhood incident that made Douglas afraid of water?
(from 'Deep Water')

Correct Answer: —

Solution:**Step 1: Recalling the Text:**

In William O. Douglas's 'Deep Water', at around age ten or eleven, Douglas went to the YMCA pool in Yakima to learn swimming.

Step 2: The Incident:

A big boy, as a prank, suddenly picked Douglas up and threw him into the deep end of the pool. Douglas sank to the bottom, panicked, swallowed water repeatedly while trying to rise, and nearly drowned/lost consciousness before someone eventually rescued him. This terrifying near-death experience left him with an intense, long-lasting fear of water.

Final Answer:

As a boy of about ten, Douglas was thrown into the deep end of the YMCA pool by a bigger boy as a prank; he sank, panicked, swallowed water and nearly drowned before being rescued — this traumatic incident gave him a lasting, deep-rooted fear of water.



8. Answer in about 80 words: What are the hazards of working in the glass bangles industry? (from 'Lost Spring')

Correct Answer: —

Solution:**Step 1: Recalling the Text:**

Anees Jung's 'Lost Spring' describes the glass-blowing industry of Firozabad, where families, including children, work in cramped, poorly-lit units without safety measures.

Step 2: Listing the Hazards:

Workers labour in high-temperature furnaces, exposing their eyes constantly to intense heat and glare, which often causes them to lose their eyesight before adulthood. They also suffer burns, cuts from glass, and respiratory problems from glass dust and furnace fumes, all without masks, gloves or legal protection, since the industry operates

largely outside labour-law enforcement.

Final Answer:

Workers in Firozabad's glass bangle units, often children, labour in dim, cramped spaces beside high-temperature furnaces without safety gear. Constant exposure to intense heat and glare frequently damages or destroys their eyesight before adulthood, while glass dust and fumes cause respiratory illness, and unshielded glasswork causes frequent burns and cuts — all compounded by the absence of legal protection or safety regulation in this unorganised, poverty-bound industry.

OR

Answer in about 80 words: Why was Kothamangalam Subbu considered No.-2 in Gemini Studios? (from 'Poets and Pancakes')

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Recalling the Text:

Asokamitran's 'Poets and Pancakes' describes Kothamangalam Subbu as a poet, character actor and close aide of Gemini Studios' founder, S.S. Vasan.

Step 2: Explaining His Status:

Subbu was credited with contributing to the success of nearly every hit film Vasan produced, and though undeniably talented and central to the studio's operations, he always remained in the shadow of Vasan, never receiving the top position or full public recognition — hence he was seen as permanently the studio's 'No. 2', embodying the essay's central 'pancake' metaphor of a layered, versatile personality kept beneath the top layer of credit.

Final Answer:

Kothamangalam Subbu, though a gifted poet, writer and actor whose contributions were behind nearly every Gemini Studios hit, always remained in S.S. Vasan's shadow rather than receiving top billing or credit himself — making him, despite his versatility and value to the studio, permanently its 'No. 2'.

9. Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions:

A thing of beauty is a joy for ever
Its loveliness increases, it will never
Pass into nothingness, but will keep
A bower quiet for us, and a sleep
Full of sweet dreams and health and quiet breathing.

a) What does the poet feel about a thing of beauty?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Extract:**

The extract opens Keats's poem 'A Thing of Beauty' (from Endymion).

Step 2: Answering:

The poet feels that a thing of true beauty gives everlasting joy; its charm never diminishes but keeps increasing, offering us a peaceful refuge and pleasant, health-giving sleep full of sweet dreams.

Final Answer:

The poet feels that a thing of beauty is a source of eternal joy — its

loveliness only increases with time and never fades, offering people a peaceful shelter and sweet, restful sleep.

9(b). A thing of beauty is a joy for ever
Its loveliness increases, it will never
Pass into nothingness, but will keep
A bower quiet for us, and a sleep
Full of sweet dreams and health and quiet breathing.

b) Why will a thing of beauty never pass into nothingness?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Extract:

The poet argues that beauty's positive effect on the human mind is permanent.

Step 2: Answering:

A thing of beauty never passes into nothingness because its loveliness and the joy, peace, and pleasant memories it creates stay with us forever, continuing to comfort and inspire us even in times of despondence.

Final Answer:

It will never pass into nothingness because its beauty and the joy it gives remain permanently etched in memory, continually offering peace and comfort rather than fading away like ordinary pleasures.

9(c). A thing of beauty is a joy for ever
Its loveliness increases, it will never
Pass into nothingness, but will keep
A bower quiet for us, and a sleep
Full of sweet dreams and health and quiet breathing.

c) Name the poet and the poem from which the above extract has been taken.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Identifying the Source:

This extract is the opening lines of John Keats's poem, commonly known by its first line, 'A Thing of Beauty', taken from his longer poem 'Endymion'.

Final Answer:

The poet is John Keats, and the extract is taken from his poem 'A Thing of Beauty' (the opening lines of 'Endymion').

10. Write the central idea of the poem: 'Keeping Quiet' (Pablo Neruda)

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Poem:

Neruda's 'Keeping Quiet' urges people worldwide to pause all activity, aggression and haste for a moment of stillness.

Step 2: Central Idea:

The poet is not advocating death or total inactivity, but a moment of genuine introspection — a pause from the relentless pursuit of work, war and material progress — so that human beings can connect with themselves, with nature, and with each other, fostering peace, self-understanding and universal brotherhood.

Final Answer:

The central idea of 'Keeping Quiet' is that a brief, shared moment of stillness and introspection — free from work, aggression and haste — can help humanity reconnect with itself and nature, promoting peace and self-awareness without meaning total inactivity or death.

OR

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

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Poem:

Kamala Das describes a car journey to the airport during which she observes her ageing mother asleep beside her, looking pale and almost corpse-like.

Step 2: Central Idea:

The poem explores the poet's fear of losing her mother to old age and death. The sight of her mother's aged, pale face triggers deep anxiety, which the poet masks by smiling and distracting herself with the youthful, lively scenes outside, only to confront her true feelings of loss and love as she says goodbye at the airport.

Final Answer:

The central idea of 'My Mother at Sixty-six' is the poet's confrontation

with her mother's approaching mortality — the fear and pain of ageing and separation, expressed through the image of her mother's pale, sleeping face, contrasted against the poet's forced smile masking her inner anxiety.

OR

Write the central idea of the poem: 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' (Adrienne Rich)

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Poem:

Adrienne Rich contrasts the bold, free tigers Aunt Jennifer embroiders on a panel with her own timid, oppressed life under her husband's dominance, symbolised by the heavy wedding ring on her hand.

Step 2: Central Idea:

The poem is about the suppression of women within patriarchal marriage and the power of art/creativity to express and outlive that suppression. Even after Aunt Jennifer's death, when her hand (weighed down by the marriage ring) is finally still, the tigers she created will continue to prance on, fearless and free — symbolising how her creative spirit triumphs and endures beyond her own constrained, fearful life.

Final Answer:

The central idea of 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' is the contrast between a woman's oppressed, fearful married life and the fearless freedom she expresses through her art; even after her death, the tigers she created

will continue prancing proudly, showing how creativity can outlast and transcend personal suffering under patriarchy.



11(a). Why did the Chief General overlook the matter of the enemy soldier? (from 'The Enemy')

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Recalling the Text:

In Pearl S. Buck's 'The Enemy', Dr. Sadao Hoki, a Japanese surgeon, secretly treats and shelters a wounded American prisoner of war who washes up near his house, despite the risk during wartime.

Step 2: Explaining the General's Response:

The Chief General, who required Dr. Sadao's surgical skill for his own upcoming operation, chose to overlook Sadao's act of sheltering the enemy soldier rather than punish him, since he valued Sadao's medical expertise for his own survival more than strict enforcement of wartime loyalty.

Final Answer:

The Chief General overlooked the matter because he needed Dr. Sadao's surgical skills for his own critical operation; his personal need for Sadao's expertise outweighed any wish to punish him for helping the enemy soldier.

OR

What did the Maharaja do to realise his ambition of killing hundred tigers? (from 'The Tiger King')

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Recalling the Text:

In Kalki's satirical story 'The Tiger King', the Maharaja of Pratibandapuram, told by astrologers that his death would come from the hundredth tiger, is determined to kill a hundred tigers himself to defy the prophecy.

Step 2: Explaining His Actions:

He hunts relentlessly within his own state until its tiger population is nearly wiped out, sparing only enough to reach his count. When his kingdom runs short of tigers (with the crucial hundredth escaping unharmed after a poor shot), he marries into a family known to have many tigers in their state to continue hunting there. Finally, unable to find a hundredth tiger to shoot in the wild, he has an old, weak tiger brought from a people's park/Hyderabad and shot in a staged hunt to falsely complete his hundred.

Final Answer:

To fulfil the prophecy-defying ambition of killing a hundred tigers, the Maharaja hunted tigers relentlessly in his own kingdom until they were nearly extinct, then married into a tiger-rich royal family to hunt further, and finally staged a hunt with an old tiger specially brought in from elsewhere to falsely claim his hundredth kill.

11(b). What qualities of Mr. Lamb attracted Derry to him? (from 'On the Face of It')

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Recalling the Text:

In Susan Hill's 'On the Face of It', Derry, a teenage boy disfigured by acid burns and withdrawn from the world due to others' reactions, meets Mr. Lamb, an elderly man with an artificial leg who lives alone.

Step 2: Explaining the Attraction:

Mr. Lamb's cheerful, open-minded and accepting nature drew Derry in — unlike others, he never stared at or pitied Derry's face, treated him as a normal, capable individual, and shared his philosophy of embracing life fearlessly despite physical difference or others' judgment. His warmth, optimism, and willingness to genuinely listen gave Derry, for the first time, a sense of being accepted and understood.

Final Answer:

Mr. Lamb's positive, unprejudiced acceptance of Derry despite his disfigurement, his own resilience and optimism despite his disability, and his encouragement for Derry to live boldly rather than hide from the world, drew Derry to him and gave him a rare sense of being valued as he was.

OR

Why is Antarctica a place to visit to understand the earth's present, past and future? (from 'Journey to the End of the Earth')

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Recalling the Text:

Tishani Doshi's 'Journey to the End of the Earth' describes Antarctica

as a natural laboratory preserving crucial scientific evidence about the planet.

Step 2: Explaining the Significance:

Its ice sheets contain a roughly 200,000-year record of Earth's climatic history (past), captured in ice cores; its current pristine, largely untouched condition, protected under international treaties limiting exploitation, represents a rare glimpse of the planet's present state; and because it is highly sensitive to global warming, the melting of its ice serves as an early indicator of the planet's likely future, making it essential to study for understanding climate change.

Final Answer:

Antarctica preserves nearly 200,000 years of the Earth's climatic history in its ice, making it key to understanding the planet's past; its untouched, treaty-protected condition reflects the present; and its extreme sensitivity to global warming, visible in its melting ice, offers an early warning of the Earth's future — together making it essential to visit and study.



12. Answer in about 80 words: How did Bama experience caste-based discrimination in her childhood? What did her elder brother Annan advise her to do to get rid of such discrimination? (from 'Memories of Childhood')

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Recalling the Text:

In Bama's 'Memories of Childhood' (from *Karukku*), as a child she once saw an elder of her community carry a packet of snacks for an

upper-caste landlord by its string, without touching it directly, to avoid 'polluting' it — revealing to her, painfully, that her community was treated as untouchable.

Step 2: Annan's Advice:

Deeply hurt and angered, Bama told her elder brother Annan, who explained that this humiliation stemmed from their caste's lack of education and progress. He advised her that if they studied hard, excelled, and progressed in life, people would come to them and offer respect on their own — education and achievement being the way to overcome caste-based discrimination.

Final Answer:

Bama witnessed an elder of her community forced to carry a snack packet by its string to avoid touching it directly, revealing her community's treatment as untouchable, which deeply upset her. Her brother Annan advised her that only by studying hard, excelling and progressing in life could they earn genuine respect and overcome such caste-based humiliation, since achievement transcends caste.

OR

How does Charley react when he realises he cannot find the third level?
(from 'The Third Level')

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Recalling the Text:

In Jack Finney's 'The Third Level', Charley discovers what he believes is a mysterious third level of Grand Central Station leading back to 1894, but afterwards cannot locate it again despite repeated searching.

Step 2: Explaining His Reaction:

Frustrated and obsessed, Charley searches for the level again and again without success, and even consults his psychiatrist friend Sam, who dismisses it as a wish-fulfilment fantasy born of the anxieties of modern life. However, after Sam himself disappears and Charley later finds proof (an old, genuinely postmarked 1894 letter from Sam) that Sam did escape into the past, Charley stops trying to find the level directly and instead starts buying old-dated currency through a stamp and coin dealer, hoping to save enough authentic old money to be ready if he ever finds the way back to 1894 himself.

Final Answer:

Unable to relocate the third level despite repeated attempts, Charley grows frustrated and even seeks his psychiatrist friend Sam's opinion, who calls it wish-fulfilment. But once proof emerges that Sam genuinely reached 1894 through it, Charley redirects his effort — no longer searching for the level itself, but quietly collecting old-dated currency through a dealer, hoping to be ready to escape into the past himself one day.