UP Board Class 12 English 2026 (Set 316 BZ) 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: With most of us, love is possessiveness. Where there is jealousy, envy, it breeds cruelty, it breeds hatred. Love can only exist and flower when there is no hate, no envy, no ambition. Without love, life is like the barren earth, arid, hard, brutal. But the moment there is affection, it is like the earth which blossoms with water, with rain, with beauty. One has to learn all this when one is very young, not when one is old, for then it is too late. Then you become prisoners of society, environment, of husband, wife, office. Find out for yourself if you can behave with affection. Can you go to your class punctually because you feel you do not want to keep people waiting? Can you be punctual for your meals because, again, you do not want to keep people waiting? Can you stop shouting while you are together because there are other people watching you, being with you?

a) "Where there is jealousy, envy, it breeds cruelty, it breeds hatred." What does this statement suggest?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Locating the idea in the passage:
The passage opens by describing love that turns possessive as the source of negative feelings.

Final Answer:
The statement suggests that when love becomes possessive, it gives rise to jealousy and envy, and these feelings in turn make a person cruel and hateful instead of loving. Possessive love destroys the very affection it claims to protect.

Quick Tip: Trace the cause-and-effect chain the author sets up: possessiveness -> jealousy/envy -> cruelty -> hatred.

1(b). Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: With most of us, love is possessiveness. Where there is jealousy, envy, it breeds cruelty, it breeds hatred. Love can only exist and flower when there is no hate, no envy, no ambition. Without love, life is like the barren earth, arid, hard, brutal. But the moment there is affection, it is like the earth which blossoms with water, with rain, with beauty. One has to learn all this when one is very young, not when one is old, for then it is too late. Then you become prisoners of society, environment, of husband, wife, office. Find out for yourself if you can behave with affection. Can you go to your class punctually because you feel you do not want to keep people waiting? Can you be punctual for your meals because, again, you do not want to keep people waiting? Can you stop shouting while you are together because there are other people watching you, being with you?

b) What is the impact of affection?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Locating the idea:

The passage contrasts a loveless life with one touched by affection.

Final Answer:

Affection transforms life the way rain transforms the barren earth — without it, life is arid, hard and brutal, but the moment affection enters, life blossoms with beauty, just as the earth blossoms with water and rain.

Quick Tip: Use the earth/rain metaphor the passage itself gives.

1(c). Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: With most of us, love is possessiveness. Where there is jealousy, envy, it breeds cruelty, it breeds hatred. Love can only exist and flower when there is no hate, no envy, no ambition. Without love, life is like the barren earth, arid, hard, brutal. But the moment there is affection, it is like the earth which blossoms with water, with rain, with beauty. One has to learn all this when one is very young, not when one is old, for then it is too late. Then you become prisoners of society, environment, of husband, wife, office. Find out for yourself if you can behave with affection. Can you go to your class punctually because you feel you do not want to keep people waiting? Can you be punctual for your meals because, again, you do not want to keep people waiting? Can you stop shouting while you are together because there are other people watching you, being with you?

c) Why should people learn to love with affection?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Reasoning from the passage:

The author says this must be learnt young, before one becomes a 'prisoner' of society, environment, husband, wife, or office.

Final Answer:

People should learn to love with affection because it is the only thing that keeps life from becoming barren and cruel; learnt early, it lets a person stay free and genuine instead of becoming a prisoner of social habits and routines.

Quick Tip: Focus on the passage's warning that this must be learnt young.

1(d). Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: With most of us, love is possessiveness. Where there is jealousy, envy, it breeds cruelty, it breeds hatred. Love can only exist and flower when there is no hate, no envy, no ambition. Without love, life is like the barren earth, arid, hard, brutal. But the moment there is affection, it is like the earth which blossoms with water, with rain, with beauty. One has to learn all this when one is very young, not when one is old, for then it is too late. Then you become prisoners of society, environment, of husband, wife, office. Find out for yourself if you can behave with affection. Can you go to your class punctually because you feel you do not want to keep people waiting? Can you be punctual for your meals because, again, you do not want to keep people waiting? Can you stop shouting while you are together because there are other people watching you, being with you?

d) Why should you go to your class and for your meals punctually?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: Locating the passage's test:

The author poses punctuality as a practical test of whether one can behave with affection.

Final Answer:

You should be punctual for class and meals because doing so shows consideration for others — you do not want to keep people waiting. It is a small, everyday way of practising affection and care for other people.

Quick Tip: The passage links punctuality directly to not keeping people waiting.

1(e)(i). Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: With most of us, love is possessiveness. Where there is jealousy, envy, it breeds cruelty, it breeds hatred. Love can only exist and flower when there is no hate, no envy, no ambition. Without love, life is like the barren earth, arid, hard, brutal. But the moment there is affection, it is like the earth which blossoms with water, with rain, with beauty. One has to learn all this when one is very young, not when one is old, for then it is too late. Then you become prisoners of society, environment, of husband, wife, office. Find out for yourself if you can behave with affection. Can you go to your class punctually because you feel you do not want to keep people waiting? Can you be punctual for your meals because, again, you do not want to keep people waiting? Can you stop shouting while you are together because there are other people watching you, being with you?

e)(i) Find out the word from the passage which means 'Surroundings'.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Final Answer:
The word is **'environment'** ('you become prisoners of society, environment...').

Quick Tip: Scan the passage for a word meaning 'surroundings.'

1(e)(ii). Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: With most of us, love is possessiveness. Where there is jealousy, envy, it breeds cruelty, it breeds hatred. Love can only exist and flower when there is no hate, no envy, no ambition. Without love, life is like the barren earth, arid, hard, brutal. But the moment there is affection, it is like the earth which blossoms with water, with rain, with beauty. One has to learn all this when one is very young, not when one is old, for then it is too late. Then you become prisoners of society, environment, of husband, wife, office. Find out for yourself if you can behave with affection. Can you go to your class punctually because you feel you do not want to keep people waiting? Can you be punctual for your meals because, again, you do not want to keep people waiting? Can you stop shouting while you are together because there are other people watching you, being with you?

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

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Final Answer:

The word is **'possessiveness'** ('with most of us, love is possessiveness') — possessiveness (wanting to keep things/people to oneself) is the opposite of generosity (willingness to give/share).

Quick Tip: Look for a word describing an ungenerous, clinging attitude.

1(e)(iii). Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: With most of us, love is possessiveness. Where there is jealousy, envy, it breeds cruelty, it breeds hatred. Love can only exist and flower when there is no hate, no envy, no ambition. Without love, life is like the barren earth, arid, hard, brutal. But the moment there is affection, it is like the earth which blossoms with water, with rain, with beauty. One has to learn all this when one is very young, not when one is old, for then it is too late. Then you become prisoners of society, environment, of husband, wife, office. Find out for yourself if you can behave with affection. Can you go to your class punctually because you feel you do not want to keep people waiting? Can you be punctual for your meals because, again, you do not want to keep people waiting? Can you stop shouting while you are together because there are other people watching you, being with you?

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

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Final Answer:
"Love can only **survive** and flower when there is no hate, no envy, no ambition."

Quick Tip: Any close synonym of 'exist' works: survive, prevail, remain, endure.

2. Write an article on **any one** of the following topics in about 150 words:
a) Your views on One Nation One Election
b) The Value of Books
c) Qualities of a Good Teacher

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Model Article — The Value of Books:
THE VALUE OF BOOKS
By a Student

Books have been called the best friends of man, and rightly so. They open windows into worlds we could never otherwise visit, carrying us across centuries and continents in the space of a few pages. A good book informs, entertains and, most importantly, transforms the way we think.

Unlike many modern distractions, books demand patience and reward it richly. Reading widely builds vocabulary, sharpens imagination and develops the habit of sustained, independent thought — skills no scrolling screen can replace. History's greatest

minds, from scientists to reformers, were almost always voracious readers first.

Books also offer quiet companionship. In moments of loneliness or doubt, a well-chosen book can comfort, guide and inspire, much like a wise friend would. They preserve the accumulated wisdom of generations and pass it on freely to anyone willing to open a page.

In an age of fleeting digital content, the enduring value of books lies precisely in their depth. To read well is to think well, and that is a gift no other medium gives so completely.

Quick Tip: Pick ONE topic, write ~150 words with a clear introduction, body and conclusion.

3. Suppose you are Rahul and the law and order situation in your district is vulnerable. Now write a letter to the Superintendent of Police of your district requesting him to improve the law and order situation in your district.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Model Letter:

123, Civil Lines,
Lucknow.
15 March, 2026

To,

The Superintendent of Police,
Lucknow District.

Subject: Request to improve the law and order situation in the district.

Sir,

I, Rahul, a resident of this district, wish to draw your kind attention to the rapidly deteriorating law and order situation here. Over the past few months, incidents of chain-snatching, night-time thefts and rowdy behaviour near the market area have increased alarmingly, causing great anxiety among residents, especially women and elderly citizens.

I request you to kindly increase police patrolling in the evenings, install CCTV cameras at vulnerable spots, and consider setting up a temporary police outpost near the main market. Prompt action would go a long way in restoring public confidence and ensuring the safety of citizens.

I hope you will look into this matter on priority.

Thanking you,
Yours obediently,
Rahul

Quick Tip: Use formal letter format: sender's address, date, receiver's address, subject, salutation, body, closing.

OR

Suppose you are a student of Class XII and want to improve your grammar. Now, write an application to the librarian of your college requesting him to arrange a book on grammar written by a foreign grammarian.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Model Application:

To,
The Librarian,
Government Inter College,
Lucknow.

Subject: Request to arrange a grammar book by a foreign grammarian.

Sir,

I am a student of Class XII in this college and am writing to request you to kindly arrange a good book on English grammar written by a well-known foreign grammarian, such as Wren and Martin's 'High School English Grammar and Composition' or Raymond Murphy's 'English Grammar in Use'.

Many of my classmates and I feel that such books explain grammatical rules with clearer examples and are extremely helpful for board exam preparation. Unfortunately, our library currently does not have a copy available for borrowing.

I shall be highly obliged if you could procure at least one such title for

the library at the earliest.

Thanking you.

Yours obediently,
A Student of Class XII

Quick Tip: Application format: receiver, subject, salutation, reason + request, closing.

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

(A) Principals require the safety of their students.

(B) You are throwing yourself in a danger.

(C) Book-sellers earn profit by selling books.

(D) The C.M. was sad when he heard the loss of lives in accident.

Correct Answer: (B) You are throwing yourself in a danger.

Solution:

Final Answer:
'Hazard' means a danger or risk. Option (ii) uses the word **'danger'**, which is its exact synonym.

Quick Tip: Hazard = danger/risk.

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

(A) Dissent - opposition

(B) Mourn - Lament

(C) Surpass - Excel

(D) Ascend - Descend

Correct Answer: (D) Ascend - Descend

Solution:

Final Answer:

'Ascend' (go up) and 'Descend' (go down) are opposite in meaning, making option (iv) the pair of antonyms. The other three pairs are near-synonyms.

Quick Tip: Look for the pair with directly opposite meanings.

4(c). 'To hit below the belt' means :

(A) To strike above the head.

(B) To beat badly.

(C) To strike unfairly.

(D) To strike under the knee.

Correct Answer: (C) To strike unfairly.

Solution:

Final Answer:

The idiom 'to hit below the belt' means **'to strike unfairly'** — to act in an unjust or unsporting way, originally a boxing term for an illegal low blow.

Quick Tip: The idiom comes from boxing, where hitting below the belt is against the rules.

4(d). The government by a ruler who has unlimited power is :

(A) Theocracy

(B) Supremacy

(C) Bureaucracy

(D) Autocracy

Correct Answer: (D) Autocracy

Solution:

Final Answer:

'Autocracy' is government by a single ruler with unlimited, absolute power.

Quick Tip: 'Auto-' relates to self/one — one ruler holding all power.

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

(A) He is unknown to me.

(B) Sheela felt sorry in her mistake.

(C) Sumit has been suffering from fever for the last night.

(D) Nobody should laugh for him.

Correct Answer: (A) He is unknown to me.

Solution:

Final Answer:
Option (i), **'He is unknown to me,'** is grammatically correct. The others have preposition errors: it should be 'sorry FOR her mistake', 'fever SINCE last night', and 'laugh AT him'.

Quick Tip: Check each sentence's preposition usage carefully.

5(a). Change into indirect speech: He said to me, "Did you not abuse my brother yesterday?"

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Final Answer:
He asked me if I had not abused his brother the previous day.

Quick Tip: Question -> 'asked ... if/whether'; 'yesterday' -> 'the previous day'; tense shifts one step back.

OR

Change into indirect speech: The captain said to them, "Bravo! You have done well."

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Final Answer:

The captain applauded them and said that they had done well.

Quick Tip: Exclamatory 'Bravo!' becomes 'applauded/exclaimed with joy'; 'have done' shifts to 'had done'.

5(b). Combine into a Simple Sentence: Tagore was a famous Bengali poet. He is the author of the Gitanjali.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Final Answer:

Tagore, a famous Bengali poet, is the author of the Gitanjali.

Quick Tip: Reduce one clause to an appositive/participial phrase.

OR

Combine into a Complex Sentence: The servant had a duty to perform. The duty was difficult.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Final Answer:

The duty which the servant had to perform was difficult.

Quick Tip: Join with a relative clause using 'which/that'.

5(c). Transform into Passive Voice: Someone has picked my pocket.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Final Answer:

My pocket has been picked (by someone).

Quick Tip: Present perfect active 'has picked' -> passive 'has been picked'.

OR

Transform into an Affirmative sentence: Do not commit mistakes.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Final Answer:

Avoid committing mistakes.

Quick Tip: Remove the negative imperative and rephrase positively.

5(d). Correct the sentence: The traveller admired beautiful sceneries.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Final Answer:

The traveller admired beautiful scenery.

('Scenery' is an uncountable noun and has no plural form.)

Quick Tip: 'Scenery' is uncountable — never used as 'sceneries.'

OR

Correct the sentence: Vikas wrote me from Kolkata.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Final Answer:

Vikas wrote to me from Kolkata.

('Write' takes the preposition 'to' before an indirect object.)

Quick Tip: 'Write to someone', not 'write someone' (in standard British/Indian usage).

5(e). Use the pair 'Stationary - Stationery' in your own sentences to make the difference in their meanings clear.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Final Answer:

Stationary: The car remained **stationary** at the red signal.

Stationery: She bought pens and notebooks from the **stationery** shop.

Quick Tip: Stationary = not moving; Stationery = writing materials.

OR

Use the pair 'Emerge - Immerge' in your own sentences to make the difference in their meanings clear.

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Final Answer:

Emerge: The sun began to **emerge** from behind the dark clouds.

Immerge: He decided to **immerge** the cloth completely in the dye.

Quick Tip: Emerge = to come out/appear; Immerge = to plunge into/submerge.

6. Translate the following passage into English:

हमारा देश 15 अगस्त, 1947 को स्वतंत्र हुआ था। अतीत के भारत और आज के भारत में बड़ा अंतर है। प्राचीनकाल में हम सम्पन्न थे। देश में धनधान्य की कमी नहीं थी और लोग सुखी थे। आज सुख सुविधायें अनेक हैं, फिर भी देश में अन्धकार ही अन्धकार छाया हुआ है। हमारी बढ़ती जनसंख्या और साम्प्रदायिक दंगे ये दो प्रमुख समस्यायें हैं जिन्हें हमें सुलझाना है।

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Final Answer (translation):

Our country became independent on 15th August, 1947. There is a great difference between the India of the past and the India of today.

In ancient times we were prosperous. There was no shortage of wealth and grain in the country, and people were happy. Today there are many comforts and conveniences, yet darkness upon darkness has spread over the country. Our growing population and communal riots are the two major problems that we have to solve.

Quick Tip: Translate sense-for-sense, keeping it natural English, not word-for-word.

7(a). Answer in about 40 words: "If at the end of the day, we can feed our families and go to bed without an aching stomach, we would rather live here than in the fields that give us no grain." What meaning do you infer from this statement?
(From 'Lost Spring' by Anees Jung)

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Final Answer:
The statement, spoken by a slum-dweller in 'Lost Spring', shows that grinding rural poverty and hunger have made people prefer the city's garbage-picking life, where at least they can eat daily, over farming that leaves them with no grain and no food at all.

Quick Tip: The line is from 'Lost Spring', about rag-pickers who migrated from poverty-stricken villages.

OR

Answer in about 40 words: Why did Rajkumar Shukla come to the Congress session?
(From 'Indigo' by Louis Fischer)

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Final Answer:
Rajkumar Shukla, a poor peasant from Champaran, came to the Congress session at Lucknow to persuade Mahatma Gandhi to visit Champaran and see for himself the suffering of indigo sharecroppers under British planters, hoping Gandhi's intervention would end their exploitation.

Quick Tip: Rajkumar Shukla was persistent and followed Gandhi from place to place until he agreed to visit Champaran.

7(b). Answer in about 40 words: Why did the author, W. Douglas, have an aversion to the water from the beginning?
(From 'Deep Water' by William Douglas)

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Final Answer:
As a child, Douglas had been knocked down twice by powerful ocean waves at the beach, which frightened him badly; this early fear of being overwhelmed by water stayed with him and grew into a lasting aversion and, later, a phobia of swimming pools.

Quick Tip: The fear originated from a frightening childhood experience at the beach, not the pool itself.

OR

Answer in about 40 words: What was the ambition of the ironmaster who owned Ramsjo Iron Mill in those days?
(From 'The Rattrap' by Selma Lagerlöf)

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Final Answer:
The ironmaster's ambition was to find out more about the mysterious old peddler (the rattrap seller) whom his daughter Edla had brought home, because he mistakenly believed the peddler was Nils Olof, an old regimental comrade he had lost touch with for years.

Quick Tip: This mistaken identity leads to the peddler being invited into the ironmaster's home for Christmas.

8. Answer in about 80 words: In what way did M. Hamel blame himself and others for the negligence of the study of French language?
(From 'The Last Lesson' by Alphonse Daudet)

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: The context:
On the last day French would be taught in his classroom, M. Hamel

reflects on why the students never learnt properly.

Final Answer:
M. Hamel blamed himself for often sending students to water his flowers or giving them holidays instead of lessons when he wanted a day off himself. He blamed parents for valuing farm or mill work over schooling, and he blamed himself too for not stressing the importance of learning one's own language, calling French 'the most beautiful language in the world' that they had all — teacher and townsfolk alike — failed to cherish until it was too late.

Quick Tip: M. Hamel's farewell speech criticises himself, parents, and the whole community.

OR

Answer in about 80 words: What was the position of Kothamangalam Subbu in Gemini Studios as described in the lesson 'Poets and Pancakes'? (By Asokamitran)

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: His official and unofficial role:
Subbu held a specific job title but functioned far beyond it.

Final Answer:
Officially, Kothamangalam Subbu was second-in-command at Gemini Studios, but unofficially he was much more: a poet, lyricist, dialogue writer, and someone whose position was second only to the founder S.S. Vasan himself. He was resourceful and creative, could improvise

a story or a scene at short notice, and was widely admired despite many in the studio being envious of his closeness to the top.

Quick Tip: Subbu's formal title understates his real creative and informal power in the studio.

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

It would be an exotic moment
Without rush, without engines,
We would all be together
in a sudden strangeness.

a) How is the exotic moment described by the poet?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Final Answer:
The exotic moment is described as a state of complete stillness — free of rush and engines — in which all people come together in a strange, sudden quietness, unlike anything experienced in the noisy, hurried modern world.

Quick Tip: From 'Keeping Quiet' by Pablo Neruda — the moment described is one of collective stillness.

9(b). Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions that follow:

It would be an exotic moment
Without rush, without engines,
We would all be together
in a sudden strangeness.

b) When would they all be together?

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Final Answer:
They would all be together when everyone, across the world, stops their usual activity and keeps still and silent for a moment, as the poet urges in the earlier lines of the poem.

Quick Tip: Refers to the poem's central call for a shared moment of silence and stillness.

9(c). Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions that follow:

It would be an exotic moment
Without rush, without engines,
We would all be together
in a sudden strangeness.

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

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Final Answer:

Poet: **Pablo Neruda**. Poem: **'Keeping Quiet'**.

Quick Tip: The imagery of stillness and 'without engines' is characteristic of this poem.

10. Write the central idea of A Roadside Stand (by Robert Frost).

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Final Answer:

The poem shows the gap between the rich and the poor. The poor farmers set up a roadside stand hoping that passing motorists will buy their produce and end their poverty, but the city people drive past without caring, and the promises of help never reach the villagers. The poet sympathises with the farmers, criticises the selfish, indifferent attitude of urban society and the hollow promises of the authorities, and pleads for real, humane help for the rural poor.

Quick Tip: Contrast the poor villagers' hope of a sale with the indifference of the passing city motorists.

OR

Write the central idea of Aunt Jennifer's Tigers (by Adrienne Rich).

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Final Answer:

The poem contrasts the free, confident tigers Aunt Jennifer embroiders with her own oppressed, fear-ridden life under a dominating marriage, symbolised by the heavy wedding ring on her hand. Through her art, Aunt Jennifer expresses the freedom and courage she herself cannot experience in real life; even after her death, the tigers she created will 'go on prancing, proud and unafraid,' outliving her suffering.

Quick Tip: Focus on the tiger-as-symbol-of-freedom versus Aunt Jennifer's real oppressed life.

OR

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

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Final Answer:

The poem is about ageing, the fear of losing a loved one and the poet's deep love for her mother. While driving to the airport, the poet sees her mother's pale, ashen face and is gripped by her old childhood fear of losing her. She looks away at the young trees and children, but the fear returns at the airport, and she hides it behind a smile and the words 'see you soon, Amma'.

Quick Tip: Link the mother's pale, ashen face to the poet's old childhood fear of losing her.

11(a). Answer in about 40 words: What is called 'a first day cover' as narrated by Charley?
(From 'The Third Level' by Jack Finney)

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Final Answer:
A 'first day cover' is an envelope bearing a new stamp postmarked on the very first day that stamp is issued — a collector's item that Charley, an avid stamp collector, mentions in the story as part of his hobby.

Quick Tip: Charley in 'The Third Level' is an enthusiastic stamp collector; the term is a philately (stamp-collecting) term.

OR

Answer in about 40 words: When did Zitkala-Sa have to suffer extreme indignities?
(From 'Memories of Childhood' — 'The Cutting of My Long Hair' by Zitkala-Sa)

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Final Answer:
Zitkala-Sa suffered extreme indignities when she was taken to a boarding school for Native American children, where she was forced against her will to have her long hair — sacred in her culture — cut short, despite her desperate resistance.

Quick Tip: The 'shingling' of her hair at the missionary boarding school is the central indignity described.

11(b). Answer in about 40 words: What part of history would it be to visit Antarctica now?
(From 'Journey to the End of the Earth' by Tishani Doshi)

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Final Answer:
Visiting Antarctica today means witnessing a living record of Earth's geological and climatic history — its ice sheets preserve 200,000-year-old climate data, making a visit there a journey through the planet's ancient past as well as a warning about its future under global warming.

Quick Tip: The essay links Antarctica's ice-core records to both deep geological time and recent climate change.

OR

Answer in about 40 words: When did Bama feel humiliated?
(From 'Memories of Childhood' — 'We Too Are Human Beings' by Bama)

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Final Answer:

Bama felt humiliated when, as a young child, she saw an elder of her community carrying a packet of snacks gingerly by its string to avoid touching it directly, and later understood this was because he belonged to a 'lower' caste and dared not touch the upper-caste landlord's food directly — an incident that revealed the casteism practised against her community.

Quick Tip: The incident with the elder carrying the vadai packet by its string is the key moment of realisation.

12. Answer in about 80 words: What vow did the Maharaja take and how did he fulfil that?
(From 'The Tiger King' by Kalki)

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: The prophecy:

As an infant, astrologers predicted the Maharaja of Pratibandapuram would one day be killed by a tiger, the hundredth he encountered.

Final Answer:

Enraged by this prediction, the Maharaja vowed to kill 100 tigers himself to defy fate. He hunted relentlessly, killing tiger after tiger across his kingdom and even marrying into another royal family

purely to gain access to its tiger-rich forests. When real tigers ran out at 99, he secretly bought an old tiger from a circus and 'shot' it to complete his tally of 100 — but a splinter from a wooden toy tiger later caused a wound that turned septic and killed him, fulfilling the prophecy in an ironic twist.

Quick Tip: The Maharaja's vow and its ironic fulfilment through a wooden toy tiger form the story's central twist.

OR

Answer in about 80 words: Describe the character of Dr. Sadao on the basis of the text read.
(From 'The Enemy' by Pearl S. Buck)

Correct Answer: —

Solution:

Step 1: His conflicting loyalties:
Dr. Sadao Hoki is a Japanese surgeon torn between duty to his country and his training as a doctor.

Final Answer:
Dr. Sadao is shown as a highly skilled, compassionate and principled man. Though a loyal Japanese citizen during wartime, when a wounded American soldier washes ashore, his humanity and medical training override national hatred, and he secretly treats and helps the enemy soldier escape rather than let him die or hand him over. He is also portrayed as calm, rational, and courageous, willing to risk his reputation and safety to uphold the values of his profession.

Quick Tip: Dr. Sadao's decision to save the American soldier reveals his core humanity over wartime nationalism.