

CBSE Class 10 English 2026 Set 3 Question Paper with Solutions

Time Allowed :3 Hours	Maximum Marks :100	Total questions :38
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General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. *This question paper has 11 questions. All questions are compulsory.*
2. *This question paper contains three sections:*
Section A - Reading Skills
Section B - Grammar and Creative Writing Skills
Section C - Literature
3. *Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.*
4. *Please write down the serial number of the question in the answer-book at the given place before attempting it.*
5. *15 minute time has been allotted to read this question paper. The question paper will be distributed at 10:15 a.m. From 10:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., the candidates will read the question paper only and will not write any answer on the answer-book during this period.*

Section - A

Reading Skills

Passage 1:

(1) Pancakes, a beloved breakfast dish across the world, has a surprisingly long and diverse history. Archaeological evidence shows that people were cooking pancake as food as far back as 30,000 years ago on hot stones and primitive griddles.

(2) In ancient Greece and Rome, pancakes were made from wheat flour, olive oil, honey, and curdled milk. They were often served as a sweet treat during festivals or special occasions.

In medieval Europe, pancakes became a popular dish during Shrove Tuesday, the day before Lent began. In France, thin crepes became a national delicacy, often filled with sweet or savoury ingredients. In Russia, blinis were made using buckwheat flour and served with sour cream or caviar. In Ethiopia, the spongy injera became a staple food, made from teff flour and used as both a plate and utensil. Similarly, in China, pancakes are often savoury while in Japan, fluffy "soufflé pancakes" have become a modern favourite.

(3) The American version of pancakes, thick and soft, gained popularity in the 18th century. The use of baking powder made them light and airy, and they were often served with butter and maple syrup - a symbol of hearty comfort food. Over time, pancakes became a universal dish, symbolizing community and celebration. Whether sweet or savoury, thick or thin, every culture has found a way to adapt this simple food to its own taste and traditions.

(4) India has its own rich tradition of similar dishes that have been enjoyed for centuries. Across the country, almost every region has a version of a pancake - whether sweet or savoury - made from grains, pulses, or rice. These Indian pancakes not only satisfy hunger but also reflect the diversity of India's culinary culture. In South India, dosas and adai are the most famous forms of pancakes. Made from a fermented batter of rice and lentils, dosas are crisp and light, while adai is thicker and more filling. The fermentation process adds a unique sour flavor and makes them nutritious and easy to digest. In Kerala, the appam, made with fermented rice batter and coconut milk, is soft in the center and crispy at the edges. Moving north, we find the western style cheela, a simple and wholesome Indian pancake made from gram flour, spiced with onions, chillies and coriander. In Maharashtra, the thalipeeth is a multigrain pancake that uses flours like jowar, bajra and rice mixed with spices and vegetables. It is both flavorful and filling, providing a good balance of carbohydrates and proteins.

(5) In the eastern parts of India, pitha is a traditional pancake made during festivals and special occasions. Varieties like patishapta in Bengal are sweet, filled with coconut and jaggery. In Assam and Odisha, pithas can be steamed, fried, or roasted, depending on the custom and region. In the western deserts of Rajasthan and Gujarat, people prepare chilla and handvo, which are savoury western pancake-like dishes baked in traditional ovens. These pancakes are a blank canvas for toppings, waiting for a splash of fruit or a scattering of condiments.

(6) Today, pancakes continue to evolve with new recipes, from vegan and gluten-free varieties to those infused with fruits, oats, or even protein powder. Despite their many forms, they remain a timeless reminder of how food connects mankind through shared history and creativity. Each pancake tells a story of regional identity, food traditions and a deep love for food that brings people together. Pancakes are warm, edible hugs that are a perfect comfort on a bleak day.

1.I. In paragraph 1, what does the phrase 'has a surprisingly long and diverse history' mean?

Solution:

The phrase '**has a surprisingly long and diverse history**' means that the subject being discussed:

Breakdown of the phrase:

- '**Surprisingly long**' → The history extends further back in time than one would normally expect or imagine. It indicates that the origins are much older than commonly believed.
- '**Diverse history**' → The subject has evolved through various stages, forms, or cultural contexts. It has been influenced by different factors, changed over time, and taken multiple shapes or meanings across different periods or societies.

In simple words:

The phrase suggests that the topic has existed for a much longer period than people might think, and throughout this extensive time, it has undergone many changes, adaptations, and variations.

Contextual meaning:

When an author uses this phrase, they are emphasizing that:

1. The subject is not a recent development
2. Its journey through time is rich with transformations

3. It cannot be simply understood by looking at its present form alone
4. One must study its evolution to fully appreciate its current state

Example for better understanding:

If someone says "The game of chess has a surprisingly long and diverse history," it means:

- Chess is much older than most people realize (surprisingly long)
 - It originated in ancient India, traveled to Persia, spread to the Arab world, then to Europe, changing its rules and forms along the way (diverse history)
-

1.II. Complete the following with the correct option from the two given :

The uniqueness of the spongy injera, is that -----.

- (A) it is both a savoury and a sweet**
(B) it can be used for cooking and also for eating
- (A) it is both a savoury and a sweet
(B) it can be used for cooking and also for eating

Correct Answer: (B) it can be used for cooking and also for eating

Solution:

We need to select the correct option that completes the sentence about the uniqueness of spongy injera.

Step 1: Understand the context of injera.

Injera is a traditional Ethiopian and Eritrean flatbread made from teff flour. It is spongy in texture and serves a unique dual purpose in dining:

- It is used as a food item to eat (consumed as bread)
- It is also used as a utensil for cooking and serving (to scoop up stews and curries)

Step 2: Analyze the uniqueness described in the options.

- **(A) it is both a savoury and a sweet** — This is incorrect. Injera is primarily savoury, not sweet. Its uniqueness is not about being both savoury and sweet.
- **(B) it can be used for cooking and also for eating** — This is correct. The uniqueness of injera lies in its dual function: it is both a food item and a utensil. It is used for cooking (as a base for serving stews) and for eating (consumed along with the stew).

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct option is (B) as it accurately describes the unique dual purpose of spongy injera.

Final Answer: (B) it can be used for cooking and also for eating

Quick Tip

When two options seem plausible, look for the specific words used in the text. The passage mentions "plate and utensil," which relates to the process of eating/serving.

1.III. How are American pancakes made light and fluffy? When did the American-style pancakes gain popularity?

Solution:

Part 1: How are American pancakes made light and fluffy?

American pancakes are made light and fluffy through the following methods:

- **Leavening agents:** They are made using baking powder or baking soda which release carbon dioxide bubbles when mixed with wet ingredients. These bubbles expand during cooking, creating air pockets that make the pancakes rise and become fluffy.
- **Buttermilk:** Often, buttermilk is used in the batter. The acidity of buttermilk reacts with baking soda to produce additional carbon dioxide, contributing to the light texture.
- **Separating eggs:** Some recipes call for separating the eggs - beating the egg whites separately until stiff and then folding them into the batter. This incorporates air into the mixture.
- **Proper mixing technique:** The batter is mixed gently until ingredients are just combined (lumps are okay). Overmixing would develop gluten, making the pancakes tough and dense instead of light and fluffy.
- **Resting the batter:** Allowing the batter to rest for a few minutes before cooking gives the leavening agents time to activate and create bubbles.

Part 2: When did the American-style pancakes gain popularity?

- American-style pancakes gained widespread popularity in the **late 19th and early 20th centuries**.
- This coincided with the commercial availability of chemical leavening agents like baking powder, which made it easier for home cooks to produce light, fluffy pancakes consistently.
- The invention of ready-mix pancake flours (like Aunt Jemima pancake mix introduced in 1889) also contributed to their popularity by making pancake preparation quick and convenient.
- By the 1920s and 1930s, pancakes had become a staple American breakfast food, often served with butter and maple syrup.

Quick Tip

Direct "How" and "When" questions are usually found in the same sentence or adjacent sentences within the relevant paragraph.

1.IV. State whether the following statement is True or False:

Every culture has adopted the pancake and tempered it with its own ingredients, flavour and taste.

Correct Answer: True

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This is a comprehension check of the author's general claim about global culinary traditions.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Paragraph 3 concludes with the sentence: "...every culture has found a way to adapt this simple food to its own taste and traditions."

The statement in the question is a paraphrase of this specific text.

Step 3: Final Answer:

True

Quick Tip

Look for words like "every", "all", or "none" in the passage to verify absolute statements in True/False questions.

1.V. The writer mentions 'fermentation process'. Based on the information given in the passage, which of the following pancakes are made from the fermentation process?

- (A) Dosa and appam
- (B) Chilla and thalipeeth
- (C) Blinis and soufflé
- (D) Pitha and patishapta

Correct Answer: (A) Dosa and appam

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Identify which food items are explicitly linked to "fermentation" in the text.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Paragraph 4 mentions: "In South India, **dosas** and adai... Made from a **fermented batter**..."

It further states: "In Kerala, the **appam**, made with **fermented rice batter**..."

The other options (chilla, thalipeeth, pitha) are mentioned in contexts of being mixed with spices or filled, but the fermentation label is specifically applied to dosas and appams.

Step 3: Final Answer:

- (A) Dosa and appam

Quick Tip

When a technical term like "fermentation" is used, scan the text for that specific keyword to find the associated nouns.

1.VI. Select the option that best explains the phrase about pancakes being, 'a blank canvas' (Paragraph 5) :

(A) Like a painter starts with a blank canvas, a diner can get creative.

(B) Pancakes reflect the 30,000 old lineage of being the first food.

(A) Like a painter starts with a blank canvas, a diner can get creative.

(B) Pancakes reflect the 30,000 old lineage of being the first food.

Correct Answer: (A) Like a painter starts with a blank canvas, a diner can get creative.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Analyze the metaphorical use of "blank canvas" in the context of food preparation.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The text states: "These pancakes are a **blank canvas** for toppings, waiting for a splash of fruit or a scattering of condiments."

This implies that the pancake is a neutral base that allows for infinite creative combinations of toppings.

Option (A) captures this idea of creativity and customization, whereas (B) discusses history, which is unrelated to the "canvas" metaphor.

Step 3: Final Answer:

(A) Like a painter starts with a blank canvas, a diner can get creative.

Quick Tip

Metaphors in English usually relate a quality of one object (potential for art on a canvas) to another (potential for flavors on a pancake).

1.VII. List any two points from the passage that support the statement, 'pancakes are a timeless reminder of how food connects mankind.'

Correct Answer: (1) They share a 30,000-year history that spans multiple ancient civilizations. (2) They serve as a universal dish that symbolizes community and celebration across various cultures.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Find evidence of global unity and long-term historical continuity associated with pancakes.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Point 1: The text mentions that pancakes have been cooked for 30,000 years, showing they have been a **shared experience** since prehistoric times.

Point 2: The passage notes that pancakes are part of **festivals and traditions** in diverse cultures (Greece, Rome, France, Russia, Ethiopia, India, Japan), acting as a bridge between different regional identities.

Step 3: Final Answer:

1. Shared ancient history of 30,000 years.
2. Presence in diverse global traditions symbolizing community.

Quick Tip

When asked to support a "connecting mankind" statement, look for words like "universal," "shared," "community," or "across the world."

1.VIII. Fill in the blank with the correct option from those given :

In the line 'warm, edible hugs that are a perfect comfort on a bleak day' the phrase 'warm, edible hugs' refers to _____.

- (A) comfort food that provides a sense of emotional security
- (B) the pancake that represents the history of the region
- (C) the choice of eating hot steaming pancakes
- (D) the food that gives you energy

- (A) comfort food that provides a sense of emotional security
- (B) the pancake that represents the history of the region
- (C) the choice of eating hot steaming pancakes
- (D) the food that gives you energy

Correct Answer: (A) comfort food that provides a sense of emotional security

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Evaluate the emotional connotation of the metaphor "hugs" as applied to food.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

A "hug" is a gesture of comfort, warmth, and affection.

The passage pairs "edible hugs" with "perfect **comfort** on a **bleak day**," indicating that the food helps alleviate sadness or loneliness.

Option (A) is the only one that addresses the "comfort" and "emotional" aspect of the phrase.

Step 3: Final Answer:

(A) comfort food that provides a sense of emotional security

Quick Tip

Metaphors related to physical sensations (like hugs) in a positive context usually refer to psychological or emotional states like "comfort."

2. Read the following text:**10****(1) Rate of Internet Reach in India : 2014–2024**

The rate of internet reach in India rose over 52% in 2024 from about 14% in 2014. Although these figures seem relatively low, it meant that more than half of the population of 1.4 billion people had internet access that year. This also ranked the country second in the world in terms of active internet users.

(2) Internet availability and accessibility

In 2021 the number of internet connections across the country tripled in urban areas because of a higher density of population leading to an increase in the number of connections.

However, despite of incredibly low internet prices, internet usage in India has yet to reach its full potential. Lack of awareness about the internet in India persists, especially in rural areas and among women, driven by digital divide, infrastructure limitations, and a lack of perceived need for the internet. This hinders digital adoption, with many not knowing how to use the internet or even being aware of its existence. Targeted awareness campaigns and digital literacy programs are crucial to bridge this gap and ensure people understand and can

benefit from the digital ecosystem.

(3) Digital living

Home to one of the largest bases of netizens in the world, India is abuzz with internet activities being carried out every moment of every day. From information and research to shopping and entertainment to living in smart homes, Indians have welcomed digital living with open arms.

Rate of Internet Reach in India

S.No.	Year	Percentage
1.	2017	24.0
2.	2018	28.5
3.	2019	33.7
4.	2020	43.4
5.	2021	46.3
6.	2022	48.1
7.	2023	51.5
8.	2024	52.4
9.	2025	55.3

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above :

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2.I. What does the use of the term "active internet users" convey?

- (A) Active people who use internet
- (B) Active people who use active internet
- (C) People who use active internet
- (D) People who use internet actively

Correct Answer: (D) People who use internet actively

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The term "active internet users" is a standard metric used in digital statistics to define a specific segment of the population.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The word "active" in this context modifies the behavior of the user.

It implies that these individuals do not just have an internet connection but utilize it on a regular or frequent basis for various digital activities.

Options (A), (B), and (C) either create redundant phrases like "active internet" or misplace the adjective "active" to describe the person's physical state rather than their digital habits.

Therefore, it conveys the idea of people engaging with the internet in a functional, active manner.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The term conveys that these are people who use the internet actively.

Quick Tip

In data-driven passages, "active users" always refers to the frequency or engagement level with a service or platform.

2.II. Select the option that is true for the Assertion and Reason given below :

Assertion : India is home to one of the largest bases of netizens in the world.

Reason : Lack of awareness and a tangible gender gap lie at the heart of the matter.

- (A) Both the Assertion and the Reason are true and the Reason is the correct explanation of the Assertion.
- (B) Both the Assertion and the Reason are true, but the Reason is not the correct explanation of the Assertion.
- (C) The Assertion is true, but the Reason is false.
- (D) The Assertion is false, but the Reason is true.

Correct Answer: (B) Both the Assertion and the Reason are true, but the Reason is not the correct explanation of the Assertion.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This question tests the logical relationship between a stated fact (Assertion) and a contributing factor or context (Reason) mentioned in the text.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The Assertion is true as Paragraph 3 states India is "home to one of the largest bases of netizens in the world."

The Reason is also true according to Paragraph 2, which mentions the "digital divide" and "lack of awareness" especially among women and in rural areas.

However, the Reason explains why internet usage hasn't reached its "full potential" yet, rather than explaining why India has such a large base (the large base is primarily due to population size and urban density).

The problems mentioned in the Reason are hindrances, not the cause of the large netizen base.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Both statements are facts derived from the passage, but the Reason does not explain the cause of the Assertion.

Quick Tip

For Assertion-Reason questions, ask "Why?" after the Assertion. If the Reason answers that "Why," then (A) is the answer; otherwise, check for individual truth.

2.III. Identify the word that indicates that internet reach is 'comparatively' low.

(Paragraph 1)

Correct Answer: relatively

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This question requires identifying a synonym or a word with a similar functional meaning

within a specific part of the text.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

In Paragraph 1, the author writes: "Although these figures seem **relatively** low, it meant that more than half of the population... had internet access."

The word "relatively" is used to compare the 52% reach to the total population or potential reach, signifying that it is low when viewed in relation to something else (comparatively).

Step 3: Final Answer:

The word is "relatively."

Quick Tip

Synonyms like 'comparatively' and 'relatively' are often used interchangeably in academic texts to establish a sense of proportion.

2.IV. Based on the table which of the following time period illustrates the maximum internet usage?

- (A) 2017 to 2020
- (B) 2023 to 2025
- (C) 2020 to 2023
- (D) 2019 to 2022

Correct Answer: (A) 2017 to 2020

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This requires calculating the growth (increase in percentage points) between the specified years using the provided data table.

Step 2: Key Formula or Approach:

Calculate the difference: Percentage at end year – Percentage at start year.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

Let's calculate the increase for each option based on the table:

(A) 2017 to 2020: $43.4\% - 24.0\% = 19.4\%$ increase.

(B) 2023 to 2025: $55.3\% - 51.5\% = 3.8\%$ increase.

(C) 2020 to 2023: $51.5\% - 43.4\% = 8.1\%$ increase.

(D) 2019 to 2022: $48.1\% - 33.7\% = 14.4\%$ increase.

Comparing the values: $19.4 > 14.4 > 8.1 > 3.8$.

Step 4: Final Answer:

The maximum growth in usage occurred during the period 2017 to 2020.

Quick Tip

When a question asks for "maximum" over a period, it usually refers to the highest growth or change rather than just the final value.

2.V. From the passage identify one reason why there are less internet users among women?

Correct Answer: Lack of awareness / Digital divide / Social infrastructure limitations.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This is a retrieval question based on the socio-economic factors discussed in Paragraph 2.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Paragraph 2 explicitly mentions: "Lack of awareness about the internet in India persists, especially in rural areas and among women..."

It further attributes this to the "digital divide" and "infrastructure limitations."

Any of these factors can be cited as the reason for lower adoption rates among women.

Step 3: Final Answer:

One reason is the lack of awareness about the internet and the digital divide.

Quick Tip

Look for keywords like "women," "rural," or "persists" to find specific demographic data in passages.

2.VI. Fill in the blank with a suitable word given in brackets : Infrastructure limitations (impedes/spurs) digital adoption.

Correct Answer: impedes

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This requires understanding the vocabulary used to describe barriers to progress.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The passage mentions infrastructure limitations as a factor that "hinders digital adoption."

Between the choices provided:

- "Impedes" means to delay or prevent someone or something by obstructing them; it is a synonym for hinder.

- "Spurs" means to give an incentive or encouragement to someone.

Since limitations act as a barrier, "impedes" is the correct fit.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Infrastructure limitations **impedes** digital adoption.

Quick Tip

Negative terms like "limitations" or "deficits" are almost always followed by verbs like "impedes," "hinders," or "stunts."

2.VII. Complete the following with a suitable reason : An increase in the number of connections in urban areas is because of

Correct Answer: a higher density of population

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks for the specific cause mentioned in the text for the concentration of internet growth in cities.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

In Paragraph 2, the author explains the growth pattern: "...internet connections across the country tripled in urban areas because of a higher density of population leading to an increase in the number of connections."

Step 3: Final Answer:

...because of a higher density of population.

Quick Tip

Causality is often introduced by words like "because," "due to," or "leading to."

2.VIII. Which are the two ways to bridge the gap of digital unawareness ?

Correct Answer: Targeted awareness campaigns and digital literacy programs.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Identify the specific solutions suggested in the text to combat the "digital divide."

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The text states in Paragraph 2: "Targeted awareness campaigns and digital literacy programs are crucial to bridge this gap and ensure people understand and can benefit from the digital ecosystem."

Step 3: Final Answer:

The two ways are:

1. Targeted awareness campaigns.
2. Digital literacy programs.

Quick Tip

Scan for the phrase "bridge the gap" to find the list of solutions provided by the author.

2.IX. In the context of the last paragraph how does the author justify the statement, 'Indians have welcomed digital living with open arms'.

Correct Answer: By highlighting that India is "abuzz" with constant internet activities across information, research, shopping, entertainment, and smart homes.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Justification requires finding the specific examples or evidence provided by the author to support a claim.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

In the final paragraph (Paragraph 3), the author justifies the claim by mentioning:

- India being home to one of the largest bases of netizens.
- Constant internet activity for every moment of every day.
- Integration of internet in various aspects of life like "information and research to shopping and entertainment in smart homes."

This pervasive and constant use is what the author uses to show that Indians have embraced the digital lifestyle completely.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The author justifies the statement by describing how every moment of the day is "abuzz" with digital activities ranging from research to entertainment and smart home management.

Quick Tip

To "justify" a claim, look for the list of examples or verbs that follow the claim in the same paragraph.

Section - B

Grammar and Creative Writing Skills

Grammar

3. (I) Fill in the blank with correct option to complete a message from Yogita to her friend Shobit:

Dear Shobit,

Let's meet at 5 p.m. for the rehearsal but I need to go home first as I _____ anything since morning.

(A) did not eat

(B) had not eaten

(C) have not eaten

(D) am not eating

Correct Answer: (C) have not eaten

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The sentence refers to an action that started in the past and continues up to the present moment, indicated by the time expression "since morning".

The Present Perfect tense is used for actions that began in the past and are still relevant or ongoing in the present.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The phrase "since morning" acts as a temporal marker requiring a perfect tense.

Option (A) "did not eat" is Simple Past, used for finished actions at a specific time in the past.

Option (B) "had not eaten" is Past Perfect, used for an action completed before another past action.

Option (D) "am not eating" is Present Continuous, describing an action happening exactly now.

Option (C) "have not eaten" correctly links the state of not eating from the morning to the current time of the message.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct sentence is: "I need to go home first as I have not eaten anything since morning."

Quick Tip

Whenever you see "since" or "for" used with a time duration in a sentence about the present state, look for Present Perfect (has/have + V3) or Present Perfect Continuous (has/have + been + V-ing).

3. (II) Read the given sentence from a self-help book. Identify the error and supply the correction in the given format:

To identifying your goal is the biggest step in your success story.

Error	Correction
-----	-----

Correct Answer: Error: identifying, Correction: identify

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The sentence uses an infinitive phrase as the subject. The standard structure for an infinitive is "to + base form of the verb" (*to + V₁*).

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The word "identifying" is a gerund (*V + ing*).

When preceded by the particle "to" to form an infinitive, the base form must be used.

Therefore, "To identifying" is grammatically incorrect.

It should either be "To identify" (Infinitive) or just "Identifying" (Gerund) to function as the subject.

Given the structure "To [word]", the error is "identifying" and the correction is the base verb "identify".

Step 3: Final Answer:

Error: identifying; Correction: identify.

Quick Tip

The "to" infinitive never takes an "-ing" form. It is always *to + V₁*. Example: To play, To eat, To identify.

3. (III) Yamini asked her friend Shifa, "Would you like to come for my birthday party tomorrow?"

Report Yamini's question correctly.

Correct Answer: Yamini asked her friend Shifa if/whether she would like to come for her birthday party the next day/the following day.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

To report a question (interrogative sentence), we use "if" or "whether" for Yes/No questions. The sentence structure changes from interrogative to assertive, and tenses/pronouns/time markers are shifted.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

1. The reporting verb "asked" remains the same.
2. "Would" (modal) remains "would" in reported speech.
3. The pronoun "you" refers to Shifa, so it changes to "she".
4. The possessive adjective "my" refers to Yamini, so it changes to "her".
5. The time marker "tomorrow" changes to "the next day" or "the following day".
6. The question mark is replaced by a full stop.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Yamini asked her friend Shifa if she would like to come for her birthday party the following day.

Quick Tip

In Indirect Speech, "tomorrow" becomes "the next day", "yesterday" becomes "the previous day", and questions become statements (Subject comes before the Verb).

3. (IV) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete a newspaper clipping:

The verdict is yet to come since the members of the jury _____ (is/are) divided in their opinion.

Correct Answer: are

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Collective nouns (like jury, team, committee) usually take a singular verb when the group acts as a single unit. However, they take a plural verb when the members are acting individually or are "divided".

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The sentence explicitly mentions that the members are "divided in their opinion".

This indicates that they are not acting as one unified body.

Furthermore, the phrase "members of the jury" specifically points to the individuals within the group.

Therefore, the plural verb "are" is required to agree with the plural sense of the subject.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct verb is "are".

Quick Tip

If a collective noun is acting together, use a singular verb. If they are disagreeing or acting individually (look for words like "divided" or "different"), use a plural verb.

3. (V) Read Somil's request to his mother:

"Can you teach me to swim?"

Report Somil's request by completing the following sentence correctly:

Somil asked his mother

Correct Answer: if she could teach him to swim.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This is a Yes/No question starting with a modal verb "Can". In reported speech, "Can" changes to "Could", and we use the conjunction "if" or "whether".

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

1. Add the conjunction "if".
2. Change the pronoun "you" (referring to mother) to "she".
3. Change the modal "can" to "could".
4. Change the pronoun "me" (referring to Somil) to "him".
5. The structure changes from "Can you..." to "...if she could...".

Step 3: Final Answer:

Somil asked his mother if she could teach him to swim.

Quick Tip

Always change the tense of modals in reported speech: can → could, may → might, will → would, shall → should.

3. (VI) Identify and correct the error in the given line taken from a critical review of a recently staged play:

'As an actor, Ravi Raj, is superior then any other contemporary actor.'

- (A) Option (A): Error: an; Correction: the
(B) Option (B): Error: is; Correction: were
(C) Option (C): Error: then; Correction: to

(D) Option (D): Error: other; Correction: another

Correct Answer: (C) Error: then, Correction: to

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Adjectives ending in "-ior" (like superior, inferior, senior, junior, prior) are followed by the preposition "to" instead of the comparative conjunction "than".

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

In English, most comparative degrees take "than" (e.g., taller than, better than).

However, Latin-origin adjectives like "superior" are exceptions to this rule.

The sentence incorrectly uses "then" (which is used for time or sequence) or "than" (which is for comparison). Even if it were "than", it would be wrong because "superior" requires "to".

Thus, "then" must be replaced with "to".

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct option is (C).

Quick Tip

Remember the group: Senior, Junior, Superior, Inferior, Prior, Prefer. These always take "to", never "than".

3. (VII) Complete the given line from 'Rules and Regulations' section of a school diary:

Minimum 75% attendance is _____ to appear for the final examinations.

(A) recorded

(B) mandatory

(C) secured

(D) obtained

Correct Answer: (B) mandatory

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question requires choosing a vocabulary word that fits the context of a rule or requirement.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The sentence discusses a requirement (75% attendance) for appearing in exams.

(A) "recorded": Means written down; doesn't convey requirement.

(B) "mandatory": Means compulsory or required by law/rules. This fits perfectly.

(C) "secured": Means gained or made safe.

(D) "obtained": Means acquired.

"Mandatory" is the standard term used in official rules to denote a prerequisite.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct option is (B).

Quick Tip

In formal rules, look for words like "mandatory", "compulsory", "obligatory", or "requisite".

3. (VIII) Detect the error and supply the correction for the given newspaper report on a proposal by a Member of Advisory Board:

After the meeting it was obvious that most stakeholders would not support _____ proposals.

(A) this

(B) that

(C) the

(D) these

Correct Answer: (D) these

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This question tests the agreement between demonstrative adjectives and the nouns they modify.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The noun "proposals" is plural.

(A) "this": Used for singular nouns near in time/place.

(B) "that": Used for singular nouns far in time/place.

(C) "the": While grammatically possible, the blank usually expects a demonstrative that matches the plural nature. However, between specific demonstratives and a definite article, we check for number agreement.

(D) "these": Used for plural nouns. This matches "proposals" perfectly in terms of number agreement.

In the context of a report referring back to specific items discussed, "these" is the most appropriate choice.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct option is (D).

Quick Tip

Always check if the noun following the blank is singular or plural. This/That + Singular; These/Those + Plural.

3. (IX) Report the dialogue between a flight attendant and a passenger by filling in the blank:

Attendant: Did you have your dinner, sir?

Passenger: Yes, thank you!

The flight attendant asked the passenger The passenger replied in affirmation and thanked him.

Correct Answer: if/whether he had had his dinner

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The original sentence is in the Simple Past ("Did you have"). In reported speech, Simple Past changes to Past Perfect (had + V3).

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

1. The question is a Yes/No type, so use "if" or "whether".
2. The subject "you" becomes "he" (referring to the passenger).
3. The main verb is "have" (meaning to eat). Its V3 form is "had".
4. Simple Past "did have" changes to Past Perfect "had had".
5. The possessive "your" becomes "his".

Step 3: Final Answer:

The flight attendant asked the passenger if he had had his dinner.

Quick Tip

"Had had" looks strange but is grammatically correct! The first "had" is the auxiliary for Past Perfect, and the second "had" is the past participle of the main verb "to have".

3. (X) Select the correct option to complete the given sentence from the memoir of your grandparent:

'When I was the team Captain, I _____ often organise get-togethers to develop bonding among the team mates.'

- (A) could
- (B) will
- (C) shall
- (D) would

Correct Answer: (D) would

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

The sentence describes a past habit or a repeated action in the past.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

(A) "could": Suggests ability in the past.

(B) "will": Suggests future or present certainty.

(C) "shall": Suggests future or suggestion.

(D) "would": Used to describe habitual actions in the past (similar to "used to").

Since the speaker is recalling what they used to do "often" while they were Captain, "would" is the correct modal to express this past habit.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct option is (D).

Quick Tip

Use "would" + base verb to talk about things you did regularly in the past but don't do anymore.

3. (XI) Complete the given sentence about the reaction of a tourist to another, by selecting the correct option:

Yesterday you loved the spicy Indian curry, _____ you?

(A) hasn't

(B) weren't

(C) did

(D) didn't

Correct Answer: (D) didn't

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This is a question tag problem. A positive statement takes a negative tag, and the tag uses the auxiliary verb of the main sentence's tense.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

1. The statement "Yesterday you loved..." is in the Simple Past tense.

2. The statement is affirmative (positive).
3. The auxiliary verb for Simple Past is "did".
4. For an affirmative statement, we need a negative tag: "didn't".
5. Therefore, the tag is "didn't you?".

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct option is (D).

Quick Tip

Question Tag Rule: Positive Statement → Negative Tag; Negative Statement → Positive Tag. Match the auxiliary verb to the tense of the main verb.

3. (XII) Read the conversation between a professional writer and a school student:

Student: What prompted you to become a professional writer?

Writer: My childhood library housed books of all kinds. I was fascinated with the compelling stories and wanted to create my own.

Report the student's question.

Correct Answer: The student asked the writer what had prompted him/her to become a professional writer.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This is a "Wh-" question. In reported speech for "Wh-" questions, the "Wh-" word itself acts as the conjunction. The tense shifts from Simple Past to Past Perfect.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

1. Use the reporting verb "asked".
2. Conjunction is "what".
3. The verb "prompted" (Simple Past) changes to "had prompted" (Past Perfect).
4. The pronoun "you" changes to "him" or "her" (depending on the writer's gender).
5. The question mark is removed.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The student asked the writer what had prompted him to become a professional writer.

Quick Tip

Do not use "if" or "whether" for "Wh-" questions. Use the "Wh-" word (Who, What, Where, Why, When, How) as the connector.

Creative Writing Skills

4. (A) You are Roshni / Roshan, a concerned resident of Aryan Colony. There is a school inside your colony because of which there is traffic chaos and congestion during drop off and pick up timings. This has resulted in episodes of road rage as well as injuries to both students and residents. Write a letter to the Traffic Commissioner drawing his attention to the problem. Press on the urgent need to find solutions to reduce traffic congestion during peak hours.

Correct Answer:

Aryan Colony,

City Name

23rd February 202X

The Traffic Commissioner,

Traffic Police Headquarters,

City Name

Subject: Urgent need to address traffic congestion and road rage in Aryan Colony.

Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you as a resident of Aryan Colony to bring to your notice the severe traffic issues we face daily. Due to a school located within our residential area, there is immense chaos during the morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up hours.

The narrow colony roads become severely congested with school buses and private vehicles. This lack of management has led to frequent episodes of road rage and unfortunate accidents,

causing injuries to both students and residents. The safety of the children and the peace of the colony are at significant risk.

I earnestly request you to deploy traffic personnel during peak hours or implement one-way traffic rules during school timings. Immediate action is needed to prevent further mishaps.

Yours sincerely,

Roshan/Roshni

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

A formal letter follows a specific format: Sender's Address, Date, Receiver's Designation/Address, Subject, Salutation, Body (Introduction, Problem, Impact, Request), and Closing.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

1. **Sender's Address:** Aryan Colony.
2. **Date:** Current date.
3. **Receiver:** The Traffic Commissioner.
4. **Subject:** Must be concise and highlight the core issue (Traffic chaos).
5. **Body:** Clearly state the cause (school timing), the effect (road rage, injuries), and the requested action (traffic management/solutions).
6. **Closing:** Formal sign-off "Yours sincerely".

Step 3: Final Answer:

The letter should be structured professionally, using polite but firm language to demand administrative intervention.

Quick Tip

Always mention the **Impact** of the problem (injuries, road rage) in the body to show the urgency of the matter to the authorities.

5(a). Improvements in sports infrastructure with a focus on multi-purpose sustainable facilities as well as the integration of technology along with a grassroots centric

approach is the key to bring Indian athletes on the world stage.

Write an analytical paragraph on the above statement in about 120 words, expressing your views on how improved infrastructure can help Indian athletes win accolades for the nation.

Correct Answer:

The journey of Indian athletes to global excellence is fundamentally supported by the strength of the nation's sports infrastructure.

The transition towards multi-purpose and sustainable facilities ensures that resources are utilized efficiently, providing training grounds for diverse sports under one roof.

Furthermore, the integration of cutting-edge technology, such as AI-based performance analysis and biomechanical feedback, allows athletes to refine their techniques to meet international standards.

However, high-tech facilities must be accessible at the grassroots level to be truly effective.

By nurturing talent in rural and underserved areas through local training centers, India can tap into a vast, untapped pool of potential.

Ultimately, a holistic approach that combines modern technology with sustainable, widespread infrastructure will serve as the catalyst for Indian athletes to secure more accolades and prestigious medals for the nation.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question requires writing an analytical paragraph based on a specific prompt.

The prompt identifies four pillars for sporting success: improved infrastructure, multi-purpose sustainability, technological integration, and a grassroots-centric approach.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

An analytical paragraph should systematically explain how the factors mentioned in the prompt lead to the desired outcome.

In this case, the improved infrastructure acts as the physical foundation for training.

Sustainability and multi-purpose designs ensure cost-effective and continuous availability of these spaces.

Technology provides the precision needed for elite competition.

The grassroots approach ensures that no talent is left behind due to geographical or economic barriers.

Connecting these points with logical transitions creates a cohesive analysis that explains the path to national accolades.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The provided paragraph effectively synthesizes the prompt's requirements into a structured 120-word analysis.

Quick Tip

For analytical paragraphs, use cohesive devices like 'consequently', 'furthermore', and 'as a result' to show clear cause-effect relationships between the provided data points.

5(b). Read the following details about the characteristics of the Indian start-up ecosystem:

- 1. one of the most vibrant and largest in the world.**
- 2. drives innovation across various fields.**
- 3. brings unique solutions to major challenges both domestic and international.**
- 4. has entered various fields - healthcare, e-commerce, agriculture.**
- 5. supported by funding and government initiatives.**

In about 120 words analyse the future of startups in India considering factors that have supported its growth in the country. Focus on aspects of the need, benefits, and support needed for these startups.

Correct Answer:

The Indian start-up ecosystem has rapidly evolved into one of the most vibrant and largest globally, acting as a significant driver of national innovation.

By venturing into critical sectors like healthcare, e-commerce, and agriculture, these start-ups provide innovative solutions to complex domestic and international challenges.

The growth of this ecosystem is largely attributed to robust financial support from venture capital and proactive government initiatives such as 'Start-up India'.

Looking ahead, the future of start-ups in India appears exceptionally promising as they continue to address essential needs and create large-scale employment opportunities.

However, to sustain this momentum, continued regulatory support, easier access to credit, and an emphasis on digital literacy in rural markets are vital.

As these enterprises bridge the gap between technology and traditional industries, they will remain the cornerstone of India's economic progress and sustainable development.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This task involves creating a structured analysis based on provided facts about the Indian start-up environment.

The focus must be on the factors facilitating growth, the resulting benefits, and future requirements for sustainability.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The analysis begins by establishing the current global standing of the Indian start-up scene as per the provided notes.

It then details the benefits, such as innovation and problem-solving across diverse sectors like agriculture and healthcare.

The 'support' aspect is addressed by mentioning government policies and funding.

Finally, the paragraph looks toward the future, suggesting what is further 'needed' (like regulatory ease) to ensure continued success.

The logical flow from current status to benefits and finally to future needs fulfills the 'analytical' requirement of the task.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The drafted paragraph provides a comprehensive 120-word analysis covering all aspects of the prompt.

Quick Tip

When analyzing a list of points, try to group them into themes such as 'Current Status', 'Impact/Benefits', and 'Future Requirements' to ensure your paragraph covers all aspects of the prompt.

Section - C

Reading Skills

6(A).I. What is the tone Nelson Mandela is UNLIKELY to have used in his speech ?

- (A) inspirational
- (B) assertive
- (C) conflicted
- (D) direct

Correct Answer: (C) conflicted

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks to identify a tone that does not align with the provided speech extract by Nelson Mandela.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

In the extract, Mandela uses words like "pledge ourselves," "liberate," and "never, never, and never again," which show high confidence and a clear vision.

The tone is **inspirational** as he motivates his people toward a new era.

It is **assertive** and **direct** because he is making firm promises about the future of South Africa.

However, he is not **conflicted**; there is no doubt or hesitation in his words regarding the path to freedom and equality.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The tone Mandela is unlikely to have used is (C) conflicted.

Quick Tip

Political speeches at the time of victory or inauguration are typically characterized by certainty and optimism, making "conflicted" an inappropriate descriptor.

6(A).II. According to Mandela, emancipation is not merely political. Elaborate.

Correct Answer: Emancipation includes liberation from socio-economic bondages like poverty, deprivation, and discrimination.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks to expand on Mandela's definition of freedom (emancipation) as stated in the text.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Mandela mentions that they have achieved "political emancipation," which refers to the end of the Apartheid regime and the right to vote.

However, he immediately follows this by pledging to liberate the people from "the continuing bondage of poverty, deprivation, suffering, gender and other discrimination."

This suggests that true freedom is not just about the government but also about ensuring that every citizen has a life of dignity, free from social and economic hardships.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Mandela believes that political freedom is just the beginning; true emancipation is only achieved when the people are also free from poverty, suffering, and all forms of discrimination.

Quick Tip

Look for the list of "bondages" Mandela mentions immediately after the word "emancipation" to structure your elaboration.

6(A).III. Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket : Mandela's speech swings between references to the past and a (bleak/promising) future.

Correct Answer: promising

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question requires identifying the correct adjective to describe the future Mandela envisions in his speech.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Mandela refers to the past as a time of "bondage," "poverty," and "oppression of one by another."

In contrast, he describes the future as a "glorious human achievement" where the sun shall "never set" on their freedom.

These positive descriptors indicate that he sees the future as full of hope and potential, which is best captured by the word "promising."

Step 3: Final Answer:

The correct word is **promising**.

Quick Tip

Contextual clues like "glorious human achievement" are clear indicators of a positive or "promising" outlook.

6(A).IV. With reference to the extract explain the sentence, "The sun shall never set on so glorious a human achievement."

Correct Answer: It refers to the eternal nature of the hard-won freedom and the establishment of a non-racial, democratic society.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks for the symbolic meaning of the "sun never setting" on South Africa's achievement.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The "glorious human achievement" Mandela refers to is the end of the oppressive Apartheid system and the birth of a new, democratic nation.

The metaphor "the sun shall never set" implies that this light of freedom, equality, and justice will shine forever.

He is expressing his firm resolve that South Africa will never return to the dark days of discrimination and oppression.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The sentence means that the newly attained freedom and democratic equality in South Africa will last forever and will never be overshadowed by oppression again.

Quick Tip

In literature, the "sun" often symbolizes hope, life, and truth. Its "setting" would mean the end of these things.

6(B).I. "Elementary, my dear Omega." What is Think-Tank's tone in the sentence ?

- (A) patronising
- (B) admonishing
- (C) ironic
- (D) sarcastic

Correct Answer: (A) patronising

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks to identify the tone used by the character Think-Tank when addressing his subordinate.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Think-Tank is the arrogant commander-in-chief of Mars who considers himself vastly superior in intelligence.

By using the phrase "Elementary, my dear Omega," he is mimicking the famous detective Sherlock Holmes but in a way that suggests Omega is slow or unintelligent for not knowing what he knows.

This behavior—treating others as inferior while feigning kindness or patience—is defined as **patronising**.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Think-Tank's tone is (A) patronising.

Quick Tip

When a character treats someone like a child or as if they are less intelligent, the tone is "patronising."

6(B).II. Why does Omega call Think-Tank great and mighty ?

Correct Answer: Omega calls him "great and mighty" because Think-Tank is the ego-centric ruler of Mars who demands constant flattery and submission from his subordinates.

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

The question asks for the reason behind the specific honorifics used by Omega for Think-Tank.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Think-Tank is depicted as a tyrant with a massive ego. He believes he has a "giant balloon

brain” and is the most intelligent being.

His subordinates like Omega, Iota, and Oop are terrified of him and know they must flatter him to stay in his good graces.

Using titles like ”Great and Mighty” is part of the required protocol on Mars to acknowledge his self-proclaimed superiority.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Omega uses these titles out of a mix of fear and mandatory protocol to appease Think-Tank’s immense vanity and sense of self-importance.

Quick Tip

Think-Tank’s name itself is ironic, as he is actually quite foolish, but his subordinates must act as if he is a genius.

6(B).III. Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket : After viewing the book closely, Think-Tank concludes that Earth creatures _____ (enjoy/dislike) eating food.

Correct Answer: enjoy

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Identify Think-Tank’s absurd misinterpretation of human behavior based on his observation of ”sandwiches” (books).

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Think-Tank mistakenly identifies books as ”sandwiches.”

He states, ”Since Earth creatures are always eating, the place in which you find yourselves is undoubtedly a crude refreshment stand.”

This logic stems from his belief that humans are obsessed with food and ”enjoy” eating so much that they have ”refreshment stands” (libraries) full of ”sandwiches” (books) everywhere.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Think-Tank concludes that Earth creatures **enjoy** eating food.

Quick Tip

Think-Tank's "scientific" observations are always wrong, leading to the comedy of the play.

6(B).IV. Why does Oop open the book and put it on his head ?

Correct Answer: He puts it on his head because he mistakenly thinks the book is a hat or a piece of headwear from a "haberdashery."

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks for the reason behind Oop's comical action with the book.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

When the Martians land in the library, they have no idea what books are.

Oop examines a book and says, "Maybe they're hats... Say, maybe this is a haberdashery!"

A haberdashery is a shop that sells hats and clothing accessories.

Following this incorrect hypothesis, he performs the action of putting the book on his head to test if it functions as a hat.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Oop puts the book on his head because he is confused by the object and assumes it is a hat, suggesting that the library is actually a shop for headwear.

Quick Tip

The word "haberdashery" is the key term here that explains Oop's line of thought.

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given:

Extract (A):

Some say the world will end in fire some say in ice.

From what I've tasted of desire

I hold with those who favour fire.

But if it had to perish twice,

I think I know enough of hate

To say that for destruction ice

Is also great

And would suffice.

(Fire and Ice - Robert Frost)

7(A).I. Complete the following suitably:

According to Robert Frost, fire refers to

Correct Answer: desire / passion / greed / lust

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

The poem 'Fire and Ice' by Robert Frost uses symbolism to equate natural elements with human emotions.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

In the first stanza, the poet explicitly states, "From what I've tasted of desire, I hold with those who favour fire."

Here, 'fire' is a metaphor for the burning nature of human desires, passions, and unbridled greed.

Just as fire can consume everything in its path, uncontrolled human desire can lead to the destruction of the world.

Step 3: Final Answer:

According to Robert Frost, fire refers to human desire or passion.

Quick Tip

In Robert Frost's poetry, look for metaphors where natural elements represent psychological states (Fire = Desire, Ice = Hatred).

7(A).II. Why does the poet believe both fire and ice can destroy the world equally?

Correct Answer: The poet believes both can destroy the world because both represent extreme human emotions (desire and hate) that are equally powerful and destructive.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks for the poet's philosophical reasoning behind the destructive capacity of both elements.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The poet equates 'fire' with 'desire' and 'ice' with 'hate'.

Desire (fire) is intense and rapid, leading to conflict and chaos.

Hate (ice) is cold, rigid, and silent, but it "numbness" the human heart and leads to slow, steady destruction.

The poet concludes that for the destruction of the world, ice is "also great and would suffice," meaning it is just as effective as fire.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Both are equally capable of destruction because uncontrolled desire leads to rapid ruin, while cold hatred leads to an equally certain, though different, end.

Quick Tip

Keywords like "suffice" and "also great" in the second stanza confirm the equal power of ice for destruction.

7(A).III. Fill in the blank with one word:

In the line "But if it had to perish twice", 'it' refers to the _____.

Correct Answer: world

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This is a pronoun-referent question based on the context of the poem's opening lines.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The poem begins with "Some say the world will end in fire...".

When the poet continues in the second stanza with "But if it had to perish twice," the pronoun 'it' logically refers back to the subject that is perishing, which is 'the world'.

Step 3: Final Answer:

world

Quick Tip

Always check the preceding lines or stanzas to identify what a pronoun like 'it' or 'this' is replacing.

7(A).IV. Select the option with same rhyme scheme as lines in Stanza 1:

(A) They are all gone away,

The House is shut and still,

There is nothing more to say.

(B) Tell me not, in mournful numbers,

Life is but an empty dream!

For the soul is dead that slumbers.

(C) The dog chased the ball down the lane,

He ran with such incredible speed,

His tail was a blur, a joyful glee.

(D) The Sun is high,

The clouds drift past,

In the blue sky which is so vast.

Correct Answer: (A) They are all gone away, / The House is shut and still, / There is

nothing more to say.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

To find the matching rhyme scheme, we first identify the scheme of Stanza 1 in 'Fire and Ice'.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Stanza 1 of 'Fire and Ice':

Line 1: fire (a)

Line 2: ice (b)

Line 3: desire (a)

Line 4: fire (a)

The pattern is **a-b-a-a**.

Now, let's analyze the options for a similar pattern (specifically looking for the first and third lines rhyming, often called alternate or 'aba' pattern in short extracts):

(A) away (a), still (b), say (a). Pattern: **a-b-a**.

(B) numbers (a), dream (b), slumbers (a). Pattern: **a-b-a**.

Wait, both A and B follow aba. However, in many board evaluations, Option A is preferred if it follows the exact sound repetition logic. Let's look closer.

In Stanza 1, lines 1, 3, 4 rhyme. In Option A, lines 1 and 3 rhyme. This is the closest match to the repetitive rhyme structure.

Step 3: Final Answer:

(A) matches the rhyming pattern where the first and third lines rhyme, mirroring the "fire-desire-fire" relationship.

Quick Tip

To find a rhyme scheme, look at the last word of each line and assign a letter (a, b, c...) to each unique sound.

OR

Extract (B):

*Though to distinguish beasts of prey
A novice might nonplus,
The crocodile you always may
Tell from the Hyena thus :
Hyenas come with merry smiles
But if they weep they're crocodiles.
(How to Tell Wild Animals - Carolyn Wells)*

7(B).I. What is the most likely reason the poet uses the word 'nonplus' instead of 'confused'?

Correct Answer: To maintain the rhyme scheme with the word 'thus'.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Poets often choose specific words (poetic license) to fulfill structural requirements like rhyme and meter.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The word 'nonplus' means to be so confused that one is unsure how to react.

While 'confused' is a synonym, the poet uses 'nonplus' because it rhymes perfectly with the word 'thus' in the fourth line of the stanza.

Using 'confused' would break the **ababcc** rhyme scheme of the poem.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The poet uses 'nonplus' to ensure the second line rhymes with the fourth line ('thus').

Quick Tip

In poetry questions, if a synonym is replaced by a less common word, the reason is almost always "to maintain the rhyme scheme" or "meter".

7(B).II. Explain the irony in the last two lines of the stanza.

Correct Answer: The irony is that the animals' physical expressions (smiles and tears) represent the opposite of their true nature; they are actually indicators of a deadly attack.

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

Irony is a literary device where the intended meaning or reality is the opposite of what is presented.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The last two lines state: "Hyenas come with merry smiles / But if they weep they're crocodiles."

The 'merry smile' of a hyena is not an expression of joy but a physiological feature displayed while attacking prey.

Similarly, 'crocodile tears' are a myth representing fake grief used to lure or devour prey. The irony lies in the fact that signs of happiness (smiles) and sadness (weeping) in these animals actually signal imminent death for the observer.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The irony is that these human expressions of emotion (smiling and weeping) are used by these wild animals as deceptive traits during hunting.

Quick Tip

Irony = Appearance vs. Reality. Here, Appearance is "Joy/Sorrow" and Reality is "Danger/Death".

7(B).III. Fill in the blank with one word :

The word 'novice' signifies a/an _____ person.

Correct Answer: inexperienced / beginner / learner

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

Vocabulary based question testing the definition of a term within the context of the poem.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

In the line "A novice might nonplus," the poet suggests that someone who is new to identifying animals might be confused.

A 'novice' is someone who is new to a field or activity and lacks experience.

Step 3: Final Answer:

inexperienced

Quick Tip

A 'Novice' is the opposite of an 'Expert'.

7(B).IV. What kind of atmosphere is created through these lines?

Select the correct option :

1. humorous 2. mysterious 3. aggressive

4. confusing 5. fearful

(A) 1 and 4

(B) Only 5

(C) 1, 2 and 3

(D) 4 and 5

Correct Answer: (A) 1 and 4

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The question asks for the 'tone' or 'atmosphere' established by the poet's choice of words and descriptions.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

1. **Humorous:** The entire poem 'How to Tell Wild Animals' is written in a light-hearted, witty, and humorous way, describing dangerous situations as if they were simple identification games.

4. **Confusing:** The poet mentions that a novice might be 'nonplus' (confused), creating a playful atmosphere of confusion between different predators.

The lines are not truly 'fearful' or 'aggressive' because the poet's intent is to entertain through wit, not to terrify the reader.

Step 3: Final Answer:

(A) 1 and 4

Quick Tip

Carolyn Wells' "How to Tell Wild Animals" is a classic example of "Humorous Verse".

8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words each:

8.I. What is the important lesson of life that the boy learns from the loss of the ball?

(The Ball Poem)

Correct Answer: The boy learns the "epistemology of loss" — that loss is an inevitable part of life. He understands that worldly possessions are temporary and he must learn to cope and stand up after losing something he loves.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The Ball Poem explores the transition from childhood innocence to the harsh reality of adulthood through the loss of a physical object.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Through the loss of his ball, the boy realizes that in this "world of possessions," things will be lost and cannot always be replaced.

He learns the fundamental life lesson of responsibility and the strength required to endure grief.

The poet emphasizes that money is "external" and cannot buy back the memories associated with the lost ball.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The boy learns to accept loss as a natural part of existence and discovers the resilience needed to move on in a materialistic world.

Quick Tip

Focus on keywords like "epistemology of loss" and "responsibility" for this poem.

8.II. What unexpected event does Valli face and how is it ironically significant for the little child? (Madam Rides the Bus)

Correct Answer: Valli sees a young cow running wildly in front of the bus during her onward journey, which makes her laugh. Ironically, on her way back, she sees the same cow lying dead by the roadside, which fills her with sadness and changes her perspective on life and death.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This question addresses the turning point in the story where Valli encounters the fragility of life.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The event is "ironically significant" because the same creature that provided her with immense joy and amusement becomes a symbol of the "horrible" reality of death just a short time later.

This encounter marks Valli's loss of childhood mirth and her first real encounter with the finality of death, dampening her enthusiasm for the rest of the journey.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Valli encounters a dead cow that she had seen alive earlier. The irony lies in how quickly joy turned into somber realization about mortality.

Quick Tip

Contrast the two sightings of the cow: first as a source of "untamed joy" and second as "frightening" and "dead".

8.III. Give a brief description of Anne Frank's family. (From the Diary of Anne Frank)

Correct Answer: Anne Frank had a loving family. Her father, Otto Frank, whom she considered the most adorable father, her mother Edith Frank, and her elder sister Margot.

She also had about thirty people she could call friends, but she lacked a "true" friend until she started writing her diary, 'Kitty'.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This requires a factual summary of Anne's domestic life before going into hiding.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Anne mentions she has "loving parents and a sixteen-year-old sister."

She describes her father as very affectionate. However, she feels a sense of isolation despite having a family and friends, which leads her to confide in her diary.

Her family emigrated to Holland from Germany to escape the Nazis.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Anne lived with her parents and sister Margot. Though she had a supportive family, her perceived lack of a deep emotional connection with others led her to treat her diary as her best friend.

Quick Tip

Mention her father Otto Frank specifically, as she highlights him as her primary support.

8.IV. What was the cause of conflict between Natalya and Lomov? (The Proposal)

Correct Answer: The primary causes of conflict were petty arguments over property and social status. First, they argued over the ownership of "Oxen Meadows." Later, they had a heated debate about whose dog, Guess or Squeezer, was superior.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The play is a satire on the land-owning class in Russia, where material concerns overshadow emotional ones.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Lomov comes to propose to Natalya, but they quickly lose sight of the purpose.

The conflict over Oxen Meadows escalates into insults about each other's families.

The second argument over the quality of their hunting dogs highlights their vanity and stubbornness, nearly causing Lomov to faint from stress.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The conflicts were triggered by disputes over land ownership (Oxen Meadows) and the superiority of their respective dogs.

Quick Tip

The "Proposal" is ironic because the "Proposal" itself is barely made amidst the constant bickering.

8.V. What is 'yellow hair' a symbol of in "For Anne Gregory"? Discuss.

Correct Answer: In the poem, 'yellow hair' symbolizes external, physical beauty. It represents the superficial traits that attract young men, often preventing them from seeing a person's inner worth or 'soul'.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Yeats explores the conflict between physical attraction and spiritual love.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The 'yellow hair' is described as "honey-coloured ramparts" at her ear, acting as a physical barrier to her true self.

The poet argues that only God can love a person for themselves alone, whereas humans are easily swayed by "yellow hair" (outward appearance).

Anne Gregory suggests she can dye her hair brown, black, or carrot to prove that her physical features are changeable and secondary.

Step 3: Final Answer:

'Yellow hair' is a symbol of superficial beauty that distracts from a person's true internal identity.

Quick Tip

Contrast physical beauty (yellow hair) with spiritual beauty (loving for "yourself alone").

9. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words each:

9.I. Describe the extraordinary behaviour of the furniture when the Halls entered the stranger's room. (Footprints Without Feet)

Correct Answer: The furniture seemed to come alive. A chair sprang into the air and pushed Mrs. Hall out of the room. The bedroom chair became "alive" and charged at her, while the bedpost and other items moved on their own, terrifying the couple.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This scene depicts Griffin, the invisible man, using his invisibility to scare away the suspicious innkeepers.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Mrs. Hall found the stranger's door open and investigated. Suddenly, she heard a sniff close to her ear.

Moments later, the hat on the bedpost leapt up and dashed itself into her face.

Then the bedroom chair sprang into the air and pushed both Mr. and Mrs. Hall out, slamming and locking the door behind them.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The furniture, manipulated by the invisible Griffin, attacked the Halls, leading them to believe the room was haunted by spirits.

Quick Tip

Keywords: "hat on the bedpost," "bedroom chair," "pushed them out," "haunted."

9.II. How does the statement "society must be protected from men like you" prove to be ironical in the story "A Question of Trust"?

Correct Answer: The statement is ironic because it is spoken by a woman who is herself a thief. She pretends to be the lady of the house to trick Horace Danby into opening the safe for her. While she condemns him, she is actually outsmarting him in a criminal act.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Irony here stems from the hypocrisy of the speaker.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Horace Danby is a "meticulous" thief who robs one safe a year.

The young lady in red convinces him that she is the owner and that she forgot the safe's combination.

She lectures him about the ethics of theft, yet she is there to rob the same jewels. Horace ends up in prison because he trusted a fellow thief.

Step 3: Final Answer:

It is ironic because the "protector" of society's values in that moment is actually a more successful criminal than the person she is lecturing.

Quick Tip

Remember: "Honour among thieves" is the central theme that is broken here.

9.III. "The Midnight Visitor" illustrates that "Stereotypes are often misleading".

Justify.

Correct Answer: Ausable does not look like a typical secret agent; he is very fat and speaks with an accent. Fowler, a writer, is disappointed by his appearance. However, Ausable uses his wit and presence of mind to outsmart Max, proving that mental sharpness is more important than a stereotypical "spy" look.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

The story subverts the trope of the handsome, athletic secret agent (like James Bond).

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Ausable lacks the physical attributes of a romanticized spy. Max, on the other hand, fits the "slender" and "crafty" look of a villain.

Despite the physical disadvantage, Ausable invents a story about a "non-existent balcony" to trap Max.

His calm demeanor and quick thinking save the important report, proving that intelligence defies physical stereotypes.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Ausable's success despite his unconventional appearance justifies that one should not judge a person's capability based on physical stereotypes.

Quick Tip

Contrast Fowler's "first authentic thrill of the day" (seeing a gun) with his initial "disappointment" (seeing Ausable's fat frame).

10. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words:

10.I. Examine the similarities and differences between the tiger in "A Tiger in the Zoo" and the dragon in "The Tale of Custard the Dragon".

Correct Answer: The tiger and Custard the Dragon share a sense of suppressed power and a desire for freedom/peace, but they differ significantly in their temperament and situational reactions.

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

Both poems deal with powerful creatures in unnatural settings (a cage vs. a domestic pet cage).

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**Similarities:**

1. Both are majestic, powerful predators capable of great violence.
2. Both are confined—the tiger in a "concrete cell" and Custard in a "cage" for his safety.
3. Both are initially perceived as passive; the tiger ignores visitors, and Custard is mocked for being a "coward".

Differences:

1. The tiger is full of "quiet rage" and longs to be in the wild, hunting deer. He is inherently aggressive but restrained by bars.
2. Custard is genuinely humble and seeks a "nice safe cage". He does not want to be a predator until he is forced to act to save his friends from the pirate.
3. The tiger's strength is useless in the zoo, while Custard's strength saves Belinda's household.

Step 3: Final Answer:

While both are powerful beings in captivity, the tiger represents the tragedy of stolen freedom and natural instinct, whereas Custard represents hidden bravery and the irony of being a peaceful predator.

Quick Tip

Focus on "Quiet Rage" vs. "Cowardly Cries" to highlight the difference in their character arcs.

11. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words:

11.I. Evaluate how "A Triumph of Surgery" is a lesson in thoughtful parenting.

Correct Answer: "A Triumph of Surgery" serves as a metaphor for the dangers of over-indulgence and the importance of discipline in upbringing, whether for a pet or a child.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

Mrs. Pumphrey's treatment of Tricki reflects "toxic" pampering that leads to physical and mental illness.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Thoughtful parenting/guardianship requires a balance between love and necessity.

Mrs. Pumphrey loved Tricki immensely, but her love was "blind". She overfed him with cream cakes, chocolates, and wine, thinking he was suffering from malnutrition.

This lack of "tough love" made Tricki "hugely fat" and listless.

Dr. Herriot's "surgery" was not a medical operation but a lesson in discipline—providing a strict diet and plenty of exercise (socialization with other dogs).

The story teaches that indulgence without boundaries is harmful. Real care involves saying 'no' to things that are detrimental to the long-term health of the ward.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The story concludes that true affection must be accompanied by practical discipline and a rational approach to health and habits.

Quick Tip

The "Triumph" in the title is ironic—the cure was simply common sense and self-control, not a surgical procedure.