

# CBSE Class 12 English Core Question Paper 2026 Set 1/2/1 with Solutions

Time Allowed :3 Hour	Maximum Marks :80	Total Questions :13
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## General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. *This question paper has 13 questions. All questions are compulsory.*
2. *This question paper contains three sections - Section A: **Reading Skills**, Section B: **Creative Writing Skills** and Section C: **Literature***
3. *Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.*
4. *Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary..*
5. *Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.*

## SECTION A :

### Comprehension Passage 1:

(1) As a young adult, life can be stressful and overwhelming at times. Juggling among school, work, social life, and other responsibilities, it can be easy to feel alone and disconnected from the world around us. Dogs are the ultimate companions for anyone looking to alleviate stress and loneliness. We'll explore many reasons why dogs make the best companions for young adults.

(2) Unconditional love : Dogs are known for their loyalty and love for their owners, no matter what. They don't judge us, criticize us, or hold grudges against us. No matter how flawed or imperfect we may be, our dogs will always love us unconditionally. This kind of unwavering support and affection can be incredibly comforting for young adults struggling to find their place in the world.

(3) Social connection : Dogs are great ice-breakers and conversation starters. Whether you're walking them in the park, taking them to the dog beach, or simply hanging out at home, dogs have a way of bringing people together. For young adults who may feel isolated or disconnected from their peers, having a dog by their side can be a great way to connect with others and form new friendships.

(4) Increase physical activity : Dogs require regular exercise in order to stay healthy and happy. This means that young adults who own dogs are more likely to engage in physical activity themselves. Whether it's going for a run, playing frisbee, or simply taking a leisurely stroll, getting out with your dog can be a great way to boost your mood and energy levels.

(5) Emotional support : Dogs are also great emotional support animals for those struggling with mental health issues such as anxiety and depression. Their presence alone can provide a sense of calm and comfort, and their ability to sense

their owner's emotions can be incredibly comforting. For young adults dealing with mental health challenges, having a dog as a companion can be a life-changing experience.

(6) **Improve responsibility and self-care :** Owning a dog also comes with a great deal of responsibility and self-care. Dogs require regular feeding, grooming, exercise, and attention, which can be a great way for young adults to develop a sense of responsibility and self-discipline. Additionally, having a dog as a companion can encourage young adults to take better care of themselves, such as making sure they get enough sleep, eat healthy, and engage in regular exercise.

(7) For all these reasons and more, dogs make fantastic companions for young adults. Whether you're looking for emotional support, social connection, increased physical activity, or simply someone to love and be loved by, a dog can provide all these things and more. So the next time you're feeling stressed or overwhelmed, consider finding a furry friend to take on the world with you.

1(i). What is the significance of owning a dog for a young adult who is striving for acceptance in society ?

- (A) It means increased physical activity.
- (B) It builds a sense of responsibility.
- (C) It helps young adults get more sleep.
- (D) It is a source of unconditional love.

**Correct Answer:** (D) It is a source of unconditional love.

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

The question asks for the primary emotional benefit a dog provides to a young adult seeking social validation or a sense of belonging.

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

According to paragraph 2, dogs provide "unwavering support and affection" without judgment or criticism.

For a young adult "struggling to find their place in the world," this non-judgmental nature equates to unconditional love, which is a vital anchor for emotional stability and self-acceptance. This is explicitly stated as being "incredibly comforting."

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

Hence, the source of unconditional love is the most significant factor for someone striving for acceptance.

#### Quick Tip

Keywords like "acceptance" and "no judgment" in a text almost always point towards "unconditional love."

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1(ii). A dog can encourage its owner to lead a healthier life by\_\_\_\_\_

Complete the above sentence appropriately, in about 40 words, with a characteristic or description.

**Correct Answer:** giving emotional support, reducing anxiety, and engaging the owner in physical activities like walking or running, which collectively boost mood, energy levels, and overall physical health.

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

The goal is to link dog ownership to specific health benefits mentioned in the text.

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

Paragraphs 4 and 6 highlight that dogs require regular exercise (walking, playing).

This requirement necessitates that owners also engage in these activities, thereby boosting their own energy and mood.

Furthermore, the routine of caring for a dog encourages a routine of self-care for the owner.

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

The sentence is completed by mentioning physical engagement and emotional stabilization.

#### Quick Tip

Focus on both "physical activity" and "emotional support" as mentioned in the marking scheme for a complete answer.

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1(iii). Share evidence from the text, in approximately 40 words, to support the view that dogs provide a sense of calm and comfort to those struggling with mental health issues.

**Correct Answer:** The text states that a dog's "presence alone can provide a sense of calm and comfort." Additionally, their innate "ability to sense their owner's emotions" offers profound emotional support for those dealing with anxiety or depression.

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

Evidence must be drawn from paragraph 5 which discusses mental health and emotional support.

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

The passage notes that for individuals facing mental challenges, the mere presence of a dog acts as a calming agent.

The specific textual detail regarding the dog's intuition ("ability to sense... emotions") is presented as a "life-changing experience."

These points provide direct support for the view mentioned in the question.

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

The evidence lies in their calming presence and emotional intuition.

### Quick Tip

Use direct phrases from the text like "presence alone" and "sense their owner's emotions" to strengthen your evidence.

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**1(iv). Explain in about 40 words the statement that 'dogs are great ice-breakers'.**

**Correct Answer:** Dogs act as conversation starters and social catalysts. Whether at a park or a beach, they bring people together, making it easier for isolated young adults to connect with others and form new friendships.

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

The term "ice-breaker" refers to a facilitator of social interaction among strangers or peers.

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

Paragraph 3 explains that activities like walking a dog in a public space naturally initiate conversations.

For those feeling "isolated or disconnected," the dog serves as a common ground for interaction. This reduces the social anxiety of starting a conversation, thereby "breaking the ice."

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

Dogs facilitate social connection by serving as a focal point for shared interest and interaction.

### Quick Tip

Relate the literal meaning of "ice-breaker" (starting a conversation) to the text's examples like "dog beach" or "park."

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**1(v). Which of the following activities help(s) young adults, owning a dog, build their sense of responsibility and self-discipline ?**

- (A) walking the dog daily
- (B) feeding it regularly
- (C) engaging the services of a dog trainer
- (D) Both (A) and (B)

**Correct Answer:** (D) Both (A) and (B)

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

Identify which tasks require personal, consistent commitment from the owner as per paragraph 6.

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

Paragraph 6 explicitly mentions "regular feeding" and "exercise" (walking) as ways to develop responsibility.

Hiring a professional trainer (C) offloads the personal duty and does not build the owner's discipline.

Therefore, both A and B are correct as they require direct personal involvement.

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

The correct option is (D).

#### Quick Tip

If two options are explicitly mentioned in the text as serving the same goal, the answer is usually "Both."

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**1(vi). What does this article aim to do ?**

- (A) Explain the benefits of owning a dog.
- (B) Provide advice on how to get a dog.
- (C) Discuss how to take proper care of a dog.
- (D) Describe the experiences of dog owners.

**Correct Answer:** (A) Explain the benefits of owning a dog.

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

Evaluate the overall purpose of the passage based on its thematic structure.

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

The article is divided into sections like "Unconditional love," "Social connection," and "Increased physical activity."

Each section explores an advantage of dog ownership specifically for young adults.

The article does not give instructions on buying a dog (B) or clinical care guides (C).

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

The central aim is to provide an exposition of the various benefits associated with owning a dog.

#### Quick Tip

Summarize the main points; if they all list positive outcomes, the aim is "benefits."

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**1(vii). Select the option that is similar in meaning to the phrase 'take on the world'.**

- (A) travel the world
- (B) accept a responsibility
- (C) to be pessimistic
- (D) have a global outlook

**Correct Answer:** (B) accept a responsibility

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

The idiom "take on the world" implies facing challenges or life's duties with confidence.

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

In the context of paragraph 7, having a friend to "take on the world with you" means dealing with life's stresses and responsibilities.

It does not mean literal travel (A) or a specific business outlook (D).

It represents a positive, proactive approach to life's burdens.

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

The correct option is (B).

Quick Tip

Context is key: "taking on" usually refers to facing a challenge or task.

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1(viii). What does the underlined part in the sentence "consider finding a furry friend to take on the world with you" refer to?

**Correct Answer:** It refers to a dog, pet, or companion animal that provides support and friendship.

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

Identify the noun that the metaphor "furry friend" represents in the passage.

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

The entire text is about dogs as companions.

"Furry friend" is a common personification or endearment used for dogs or similar domestic pets.

It reinforces the theme of companionship discussed throughout.

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

The referent is a dog or a pet.

Quick Tip

Metaphors in reading passages almost always refer to the main subject of discussion.

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1(ix). What is the tone of the article ?

- (A) critical but supportive
- (B) indifferent and bored
- (C) positive and informative
- (D) humorous and casual

**Correct Answer:** (C) positive and informative

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

Tone refers to the author's attitude towards the subject matter.

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

The author highlights various positive aspects of dog ownership using encouraging language ("fantastic," "ultimate").

The structure is designed to inform the reader about benefits.

There is no criticism (A) or lack of interest (B).

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

The correct option is (C).

**Quick Tip**

If a text uses a lot of positive adjectives and data-like points, the tone is "positive and informative."

**Comprehension Passage 2:**

(1) A recent survey conducted by an independent research firm sought to measure levels of happiness among youth aged 16–24 years in seven countries. The findings revealed some intriguing insights into what makes today's youth happiest, as well as which factors influence their overall well-being. In India, an overwhelming majority of the youth reported feeling satisfied with their lives, with 87% rating of their overall happiness as 'high' or 'very high.' Financial security was identified as the primary source of happiness for 66%, followed by family support (89%), having a purpose in life (50%), and work or studies (40%). Unfortunately, 65% reported feeling stress related to academic performance or workload, while 25% reported feeling lonely. These figures point to a need for increased mental health support among India's youth.

2(i). What are the two findings that the survey mentioned in paragraph 1 reveals? Answer in about 40 words.

**Correct Answer:** The survey reveals that 87% of Indian youth are satisfied with their lives, rating their happiness as high. Secondly, it identifies family support (89%) and financial security (66%) as the primary contributors to their well-being.

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

Extract key statistical data points from the first paragraph that summarize youth happiness trends.

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

Paragraph 1 provides quantitative data on happiness levels and its sources.

One finding is the high satisfaction rate of 87%.

Another significant finding is the specific percentage breakdown of sources, with family support being the highest at 89%.

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

The major findings are the high general satisfaction (87%) and the significant impact of family and financial security.

**Quick Tip**

When asked for "findings," look for percentages and specific causal factors mentioned.

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**2(ii). Explain in about 40 words the statement "It is also important to provide financial support so as to reduce some of the economic pressures".**

**Correct Answer:** Since 66% of youth identify financial security as a primary source of happiness, alleviating economic pressures through support can directly reduce stress and improve their overall mental well-being and life satisfaction.

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

Explain the logical link between financial stability and stress reduction based on the provided data.

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

Paragraph 1 notes that financial security is a major pillar of happiness.

By providing support, one addresses the "economic pressures" that might otherwise lead to anxiety or dissatisfaction.

This is presented as a necessary step alongside mental health resources in paragraph 3.

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

Providing financial aid addresses a key driver of youth happiness and reduces overall life stress.

**Quick Tip**

Relate the "solution" (financial support) to the "problem" identified in the data (need for financial security).

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**2(iii). Elaborate giving data, the statement "Stress has a significant impact on the happiness of today's youth."**

**Correct Answer:** Data from paragraph 1 shows that despite high happiness levels, 65% of youth suffer from academic stress and workload, while 25% feel lonely, indicating that stress is a substantial barrier to complete well-being.

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

Use the specific percentages mentioned in the text to validate the claim about stress.

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

While 87% are happy, the "unfortunate" side is that 65% experience academic-related stress. Additionally, 25% report loneliness.

These high percentages show that stress is widespread and impactful among the Indian youth demographic.

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

The significant impact of stress is evidenced by the 65% academic stress and 25% loneliness rates.

**Quick Tip**

Always include the specific percentages when a question asks you to "give data."

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**2(iv). Which of the following factors, with reference to the given passage, does not play a substantial role in the well-being of Indian youth ?**

- (A) Family support and strong ties
- (B) Social connection and technology
- (C) Books and literature
- (D) Economic stability

**Correct Answer:** (C) Books and literature

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

Identify the factor that is either not mentioned or not highlighted as a primary driver of happiness in the text.

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

The passage explicitly lists family support (A), work/studies (related to academic stress), and financial security (D).

"Social connection" (B) is mentioned in passage 1 but is implied in passage 2 via family.

"Books and literature" (C) has no mention in either passage as a measurable factor for well-being.

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

The correct option is (C).

**Quick Tip**

Pick the option that has absolutely no reference in the provided text.

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**2(v). State whether True or False, with reference to the given passage :**

**It is not necessary to provide financial support to the youth as only academic performance plays an upper hand in deciding the stress level.**

**Correct Answer:** False

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

Verify the claim against the recommendations made in paragraph 3.

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

Paragraph 3 explicitly states: "It is also important to provide financial support so as to reduce some of the economic pressures."

The question's statement suggests it is "not necessary," which directly contradicts the text.

While academic stress is high, the text does not say it is the \*only\* factor.

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

The statement is False.

#### Quick Tip

If a statement uses absolute words like "only" or "not necessary," double-check for more nuanced recommendations in the text.

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**2(vi). What are the top choices which are of maximum value to today's youth ?**

**I. Collectivism**

**II. Social media**

**III. Individualistic society**

**IV. Family ties**

(A) I and II

(B) II and III

(C) I and IV

(D) II and IV

**Correct Answer:** (C) I and IV

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

Connect the specific findings (family support) to broader sociological terms.

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

The survey shows that family support is a major contributor across multiple countries (France, India, Canada).

This high value placed on family reflects "Family ties" (IV) and a "Collectivistic" (I) mindset where the group/family is central.

Social media and individualism are not presented as primary sources of happiness in this passage.

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

The correct option is (C).

### Quick Tip

"Family ties" are a characteristic of "Collectivism." These two usually go together in such contexts.

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2(vii). The mental health of today's youth can be managed by resources like \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

**Correct Answer:** counselling services and mindfulness activities (or support groups).

#### **Solution:**

##### **Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

Find the specific resources recommended in paragraph 3 for managing well-being.

##### **Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

Paragraph 3 states: "This may include access to counselling services, mindfulness activities and support groups."

Any two of these accurately complete the sentence based on the author's suggestions.

##### **Step 3: Final Answer:**

The blanks should be filled with "counselling services" and "mindfulness activities."

### Quick Tip

Scan for keywords like "resources," "manage," and "mental health" to find the answer.

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2(viii). Write the following sources that provide happiness to today's youth in descending order :

- (a) purposefulness
- (b) financial status
- (c) family support
- (d) stress

**Correct Answer:** (c) family support (89%), (b) financial status (66%), (a) purposefulness (50%).

#### **Solution:**

##### **Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

Rank the happiness factors based on the percentages given in the passage, from highest to lowest.

##### **Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

From paragraph 1:

1. Family support = 89%
2. Financial security (status) = 66%
3. Purpose in life (purposefulness) = 50%

”Stress” (d) is a cause of unhappiness, hence excluded from the ”sources that provide happiness” list.

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

The descending order is (c), (b), (a).

#### Quick Tip

Descending order means start from the largest value. Exclude distractors like ”stress” which is a negative factor.

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## SECTION B : Creative Writing Skills

3(a). You are the President of the Cultural Club of Marigold Public School, Vir Nagar. As part of the Annual Community Service Week, you are planning to put up a cultural performance in ‘Ahista’, a senior citizens home. Draft a notice for the school notice board inviting participation by the students. Invent necessary details.

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

A notice is a formal announcement for an upcoming event, following a specific format: Name of Institution, ”NOTICE”, Title, Date, Body, and Contact details.

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

The notice should include the ”5 Ws”:

- **What:** Cultural Performance.
- **When:** Mention a specific date and time.
- **Where:** ‘Ahista’ Senior Citizens Home.
- **Who:** Students with talents in singing, dancing, or drama.
- **Whom to contact:** Registration details.

Ensure the tone is formal and the notice is enclosed in a box.

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

The draft must include the school name, date, heading, invitation to participate, and the President’s signature.

#### Quick Tip

Always use a box for notices and keep the body under 50 words to avoid marks deduction.

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**OR**

3(b). As Chief Librarian of Little Wood Library, Birpur, draft a notice informing members about the change in winter timings, effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2024. Also

inform the members about the newly introduced electronic international journal support service with a remote accessing facility. Invent necessary details.

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

This notice serves two purposes: informing about timing changes and announcing a new facility.

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

- Heading: Important Update Regarding Library Hours and Services.
- Timing Change: New hours (e.g., 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM) effective from 1st April.
- New Service: Remote access to international journals.
- Call to Action: How members can register for credentials.

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

The notice should clearly state the effective date and the benefits of the new digital service.

#### Quick Tip

When there are two separate points, use bullet points for clarity within the notice body.

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4(a). You are the Secretary of the Civil Medical Doctors Association, Sheesh Nagar. On the occasion of World Health Day, you are arranging a workshop on Drug Free Pain Management and Reversal. Draft a formal letter of invitation to be sent to all the members to attend the workshop. Request them to be punctual. Invent relevant details.

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

A formal invitation for an event is usually written as a printed card format or a standard formal letter.

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

- Sender: Civil Medical Doctors Association.
- Occasion: World Health Day.
- Subject: Workshop on Drug-Free Pain Management.
- Details: Date, Time, and Venue (Association Hall).
- Instruction: Mention "Punctuality is requested" clearly.

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

The draft should be professional, respectful, and clearly state the purpose of the workshop.

#### Quick Tip

In formal invitations, use phrases like "solicit the pleasure of your company" or "request the honor of your presence."

OR

4(b). You are Shri E.A.S. Prasad, a well known local cricketer. You have been invited as a chief guest for an inter-school cricket championship in K.P.S School, Mahabagh. Create an appropriate formal letter of acceptance.

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

A formal acceptance letter must confirm attendance and express gratitude for the invitation.

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

- Reiterate the event: Inter-school Cricket Championship.
- Confirmation: Use the third person ("Shri E.A.S. Prasad has much pleasure in accepting...") or very formal first person.
- Gratitude: Thank the Principal for the honor.
- Closing: Looking forward to meeting the young athletes.

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

The tone should be appreciative and dignified.

#### Quick Tip

Always repeat the date and venue in your acceptance to show you have the correct information.

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5(a). You are Priti/Pramod Vats, a resident of 317, Rajdhani Enclave, Rajbagh. You saw the given advertisement in the newspaper and wished to apply for the same. Write a letter to the Personnel Manager along with your bio-data, expressing your interest in the advertised post.

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

A job application consists of a covering letter and a detailed bio-data (CV).

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

- **Covering Letter:** Reference the advertisement, state your qualification (College Graduate), and express interest in marketing cosmetics. Mention fluency in English and Hindi as required.
- **Bio-Data:** Include Name, DOB, Address, Education (College details), Skills (Interpersonal, Language), and References.

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

The total length should be 120 – 150 words, maintaining the formal business letter format.

#### Quick Tip

Structure your Bio-data into clear categories: Personal Profile, Academic Qualifications, Experience (if any), and Skills.

OR

5(b). Write a letter to the editor of a national daily, examining the reasons for river pollution and suggesting ways of tackling the issue. Use the given cues along with your own ideas. You are Srishti/Suraj, a concerned student.

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

A letter to the editor highlights a public issue and proposes solutions, directed to authorities through the media.

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

- **Reasons:** Industrial waste, human sewage, and agricultural runoff.
- **Impact:** Rivers are lifelines; pollution threatens health and nature.
- **Solutions:** Strict enforcement of laws, monitoring committees, waste handling infrastructure, and public awareness.
- **Closure:** Requesting the publication to stir the authorities into action.

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

Use the formal letter format with a clear subject line and concluding hope for positive change.

#### Quick Tip

Always start with: "Through the columns of your esteemed daily, I would like to draw the attention of the authorities..."

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6(a). With rapid digitalization, students have started depending on digital devices for entertainment. This has impacted their lives, both positively and negatively. Write an article with the help of the given cues and your own ideas, highlighting the advantages and disadvantages. You are Rohini/Rohit.

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

An article presents a balanced discussion on a topic, often categorized into pros, cons, and suggestions.

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

- **Pros:** Academic enhancement, research skills, visual intelligence.
- **Cons:** Physical inactivity, addiction, aggressive behavior, lack of concentration.
- **Solutions:** Adult supervision, setting strict time limits, awareness programs.
- **Structure:** Title, Byline, Introduction, Body (pros and cons separately), Conclusion.

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

The article should be cohesive and follow a logical flow from the impact to the remedy.

#### Quick Tip

Give your article a catchy title like "Digital Devices: A Double-Edged Sword for Children."

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**OR**

**6(b).** The student counselling department in your school put up a poster regarding 'Be - Do - Live WELL' Wellness Workshop. As Rita/Rahul, student editor, write a report on the above workshop for the school magazine.

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

A report is a factual account of an event, written for a target audience (here, the school magazine).

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

- **Headline:** Wellness Workshop: A Path to Holistic Living.
- **What/When/Where:** 3-day workshop (6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Feb) at the community centre.
- **Activities:** Theatre in action, sharing concerns, stress management sessions.
- **Outcome:** Students felt motivated and learned the joy of living.

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

The report must be in the past tense and include a byline.

#### Quick Tip

Include a quote or a summary of the participants' feelings to make the report more engaging.

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## SECTION C : Literature

**7(a)(i).** Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract (Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)?

- (A) The maturity of adulthood
- (B) The glory of femininity
- (C) Victim of male domination
- (D) The superficial beauty

**Correct Answer:** (C) Victim of male domination

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

Adrienne Rich's poem uses symbols to depict the oppression of women in marriage.

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

Aunt Jennifer's fingers "flutter" out of fear.

The "massive weight of Uncle's wedding band" metaphorically represents the heavy, burdensome constraints of a patriarchal marriage.

The extract emphasizes how she is weighed down by her husband's dominance.

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

The theme of being a victim of male domination is evident, thus (C) is correct.

### Quick Tip

"Uncle's wedding band" is the key symbol here—it belongs to him but binds her.

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**7(a)(ii). State whether the following statement is True or False, with reference to the extract.**

**Aunt Jennifer is nervous and traumatized because of the constraints of her marriage.**

**Correct Answer:** True

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

Identify the emotional state of the character based on behavioral descriptions in the poem.

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

The text mentions her "fingers fluttering," which is a sign of nervousness.

The "weight" that sits "heavily" on her hand signifies the mental and physical trauma of her submissive role in the marriage.

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

The statement accurately reflects the poem's context.

### Quick Tip

"Fluttering fingers" usually indicate anxiety or fear in literature.

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**7(a)(iii). Complete the following sentence appropriately :**

**The fingers fluttering through her wool symbolize\_\_\_\_\_**

**Correct Answer:** her nervousness, anxiety, or the physical and mental trauma caused by the patriarchal constraints of her marriage.

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

Explain the symbolic meaning of the character's physical action.

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

The "fluttering" is a physical manifestation of her inner turmoil.

It shows that even a simple task like knitting is difficult because she is physically and mentally exhausted by "Uncle's" dominance.

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

It symbolizes her deep-seated fear and nervous state.

### Quick Tip

Symbolism often links an outer action to an inner emotional state.

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7(a)(iv). The use of the words “massive weight” creates a powerful image of\_\_\_\_\_

**Correct Answer:** oppression, suppression, or the heavy burden of marital constraints in a male-dominated society.

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

Interpret the metaphorical imagery used by the poet.

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

A wedding ring is physically light, but for Aunt Jennifer, it is a “massive weight.”

This hyperbole emphasizes that her marriage is not a union of love but a state of bondage.

It represents the crushing influence of her husband’s authority.

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

The image is one of intense emotional and social burden.

### Quick Tip

Weight and heaviness in poetry often symbolize duty, grief, or oppression.

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7(a)(v). Based on the rhyme scheme in lines 3 and 4, which word would rhyme with ‘band’ and ‘hand’?

- (A) stand
- (B) wind
- (C) bent
- (D) tent

**Correct Answer:** (A) stand

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

Identify a word that phonetically matches the “and” sound at the end of the given words.

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

The target sounds are “band” (/bænd/) and “hand” (/hænd/).

Option (A) “stand” (/stænd/) has the same vowel and consonant ending.

Options (B), (C), and (D) have different vowel sounds or endings.

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

The correct option is (A).

### Quick Tip

Look for words with the exact same ending letters (suffixes) for simple rhyme questions.

**7(a)(vi). The heavy wedding ring is a source of :**

- (A) joy.
- (B) freedom.
- (C) dignity.
- (D) burden.

**Correct Answer:** (D) burden.

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

Determine the poet's portrayal of the symbol "wedding ring."

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

The poem calls it a "massive weight" that sits "heavily."

These descriptors signify that the marriage is an unwelcome load or an ordeal for Aunt Jennifer. It is the opposite of joy or freedom.

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

The correct option is (D).

### Quick Tip

The word "heavily" in the text directly leads to the concept of a "burden."

**OR**

**7(b)(i). Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract (A Thing of Beauty)?**

- (A) The beautiful things in nature
- (B) Things that cause unhappiness
- (C) The immortality of human beings
- (D) The early morning fragrance of flowers

**Correct Answer:** (B) Things that cause unhappiness

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

The extract focuses on the "despondence" and "inhuman dearth" of life.

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

The poet mentions "gloomy days," "unhealthy ways," and the "lack of noble natures."

These are the sources of human suffering that make life difficult.

The extract establishes why we need the "flowery band" to survive these negatives.

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

The theme highlighted is the misery of human existence, thus (B).

**Quick Tip**

Words like "Spite," "despondence," and "dearth" signify unhappiness.

---

**7(b)(ii). State whether the given statement is True or False, with reference to the extract.**

**The paths we follow are often not worthy of our noble nature.**

**Correct Answer:** True

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

Analyze the poet's critique of human life and moral conduct.

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

The poet speaks of "Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways / Made for our searching."

This implies that human pursuits are often ethically or spiritually deficient.

This is contrasted with the "noble natures" that are in "dearth."

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

The statement is True as per the text.

**Quick Tip**

"Unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways" refers to the wrong paths humans take.

---

**7(b)(iii). Complete the following sentence appropriately :**

**We wreath for ourselves a flowery band every morrow because\_\_\_\_\_**

**Correct Answer:** it binds us to the earth and provides a reason to live despite the suffering, despondence, and negativity of the world.

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

Explain the purpose of beauty in human life as described by Keats.

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

Life is full of "gloomy days." To overcome this, we create a "flowery band" (connection with beauty).

This band "binds us to the earth," meaning it gives us the will to keep living.

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

It serves as an anchor to life amidst despondency.

### Quick Tip

"Binding to the earth" means staying connected to life/existence.

7(b)(iv). The use of the word 'dearth' creates a powerful image of\_\_\_\_\_

**Correct Answer:** a extreme shortage or lack of nobility, virtues, and good-natured people in the world.

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

Interpret the use of vocabulary to convey a sense of absence.

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

"Dearth" means a severe lack.

By saying "dearth of noble natures," the poet emphasizes that truly good, noble people are rare.

This scarcity contributes to the "gloomy days."

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

The image is one of spiritual and moral emptiness.

### Quick Tip

"Dearth" is a strong word for scarcity—use this to emphasize the rarity of goodness.

7(b)(v). Based on the rhyme scheme in lines 4 and 5, which of the following word will rhyme with 'days' and 'ways' ?

- (A) craze
- (B) pays
- (C) haste
- (D) waste

**Correct Answer:** (B) pays

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

Phonetically match the words ending with the long 'a' sound followed by 'z'.

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

"Days" (/dez/) and "ways" (/wez/) rhyme with (B) "pays" (/pez/).

"Craze" (A) also rhymes, but the marking scheme identifies "pays" as a primary choice in some versions; however, phonetically both A and B work. Based on the provided answer key, (B) is chosen.

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

The correct option is (B).

### Quick Tip

Focus on the vowel and the final consonant sound for rhyming.

**7(b)(vi). The lack of punctuation at the end of line 3 in the extract is to :**

- (A) create a sense of continuity and flow that connects it with the fourth line.
- (B) encourage the reader to understand grammar.
- (C) forewarn the reader of gloomy days ahead.
- (D) keep us connected to this earth.

**Correct Answer:** (A) create a sense of continuity and flow that connects it with the fourth line.

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

Understand the literary device of 'enjambment.'

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

Enjambment is when a sentence continues into the next line without a punctuation mark.

This creates a seamless flow and connects the ideas of "inhuman death" directly to "noble natures."

It reflects the ongoing, unceasing nature of the struggles described.

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

The correct option is (A).

### Quick Tip

Enjambment is always used for "flow" or "pacing" in poetry.

**8(a)(i). Complete the sentence appropriately.**

The dilemma faced by the couple was -----

**Correct Answer:** whether to save the life of a wounded enemy soldier or to hand him over to the authorities as loyal citizens of Japan during wartime.

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

The central conflict in 'The Enemy' is between humanity (as a doctor) and patriotism.

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

Dr. Sadao is a trained surgeon bound by his oath to save lives.

However, the man is an American soldier (the enemy).

If they save him, they are traitors; if they leave him, they are violating their human/professional ethics.

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

The dilemma was between medical duty and national loyalty.

**Quick Tip**

A dilemma in literature usually involves a choice between "Head" (logic/duty) and "Heart" (ethics/mercy).

**8(a)(ii). What does Hana ask Dr. Sadao to do alone ?**

- (A) Treat the wounded soldier
- (B) Give him shelter in the outhouse
- (C) Throw him back into the sea
- (D) Hand him over to the authorities

**Correct Answer:** (C) Throw him back into the sea

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

Recall Hana's initial panic and suggestion when they realize the man is an enemy.

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

Initially, both were terrified. Hana said, "But if you can do it alone..." referring to the previous suggestion of throwing him back.

They were afraid that keeping him would endanger their entire household.

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

The correct option is (C).

**Quick Tip**

Look for the context of "hesitation" in the text—it follows the thought of letting the sea "finish" him.

**8(a)(iii). Explain the expression : "if the man were whole".**

**Correct Answer:** It means if the man were not injured, wounded, or dying, Sadao would have no ethical conflict in handing him over to the police immediately.

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

Interpret the condition Sadao places on his actions.

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

Sadao says he cares nothing for the enemy.

But because the man is "wounded," he cannot simply let him die as a doctor.

If he were "whole" (physically fit), the "doctor's duty" would not apply, and Sadao would be a "whole" patriot.

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

It refers to the man being physically uninjured and healthy.

**Quick Tip**

"Whole" here is used as an antonym for "wounded."

---

**8(a)(iv). Dr. Sadao says, "All Americans are my enemy." What character trait of Dr. Sadao does it reflect ?**

**Correct Answer:** It reflects his patriotism, loyalty to his country, and his struggle to suppress his humanitarian instincts in favor of national duty.

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

Determine what a declaration of hatred for the enemy says about a character.

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

Sadao is a "true Japanese." This statement shows his nationalist fervor.

He wants to convince himself and Hana that he is not sympathetic to the Americans.

It highlights his internal struggle between his identity as a patriot and his identity as a healer.

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

It shows his strong nationalistic and patriotic sentiments.

**Quick Tip**

Even a doctor can be a patriot; Sadao's words are his "defense mechanism" against his own mercy.

---

**OR**

**8(b)(i). Why does Mr. Lamb feel that Derry has not come to steal ?**

**Correct Answer:** He believes that usually, it is "young lads" (small children) who steal apples, and he observes that Derry is "not so young" and seems to be looking for something else.

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

Mr. Lamb's wisdom allows him to see past the intrusion.

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

Mr. Lamb says: "The young lads steal... You're not so young."

Derry's hesitation and his statement "I just... wanted to come in" suggest he was seeking isolation, not fruit.

Lamb's welcoming nature assumes the best in people unless proven otherwise.

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

He notes Derry's age and hesitant behavior as proof that theft wasn't the motive.

**Quick Tip**

Mr. Lamb's line "You're not so young" is a key piece of textual evidence.

---

**8(b)(ii). Cite instances from the extract which show that Mr. Lamb is trying to put Derry at ease.**

**Correct Answer:** He says "Nothing to be afraid of. Just a garden. Just me." and "So you did. Here we are, then," showing an accepting and non-threatening attitude.

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

Identify specific dialogue where Mr. Lamb minimizes the conflict.

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

Derry is defensive and says "I'd not come to steal."

Lamb replies "No, no," immediately dismissing the accusation.

By saying "Just me," he reduces himself from an authority figure to just another person.

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

Instances include his friendly greeting and his dismissal of Derry's fears.

**Quick Tip**

Look for the word "Just"—it's used here to simplify and de-escalate the tension.

---

**8(b)(iii). Choose the correct statement :**

(A) Derry entered the garden as he was fascinated by the bees.

(B) Derry came to meet Mr. Lamb.

(C) They were well acquainted with each other.

(D) Derry entered as he wanted to see the garden.

**Correct Answer:** (D) Derry entered as he wanted to see the garden.

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

Recall Derry's initial motivation for climbing the wall.

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

Derry says "I just... wanted to come in. Into the garden."

He did not know who Mr. Lamb was (B, C) and hadn't mentioned the bees yet (A).

He thought the place was empty and wanted to enjoy the solitude of the garden.

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

The correct option is (D).

**Quick Tip**

Derry repeats "into the garden" twice, highlighting his specific destination.

---

8(b)(iv). People are afraid of Derry because \_\_\_\_\_

**Correct Answer:** his face is burnt by acid, making him look physically "scary" or "ugly" to those who judge only by appearances.

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

Identify the source of Derry's social anxiety and the central conflict of the play.

**Step 2: Detailed Explanation:**

Derry says, "People are afraid of me."

This is because half of his face was eaten away by acid.

This physical deformity leads people to react with pity or horror, which Derry interprets as fear.

**Step 3: Final Answer:**

The fear is a result of his disfigured face.

**Quick Tip**

The "acid" and "burnt face" are the pivotal elements of Derry's backstory.

---

9. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, (a) or (b) :

(a) "Children grow up in them, becoming partners in survival. And survival in Seemapuri means rag-picking. Through the years, it has acquired the proportions of a fine art. Garbage to them is gold. It is their daily bread, a roof over their heads, even if it is a leaking roof. But for a child it is even more."

9(a)(i). Complete the sentence appropriately.

Children become partners in survival suggests that\_\_\_\_\_.

**Correct Answer:** they help their parents in earning a livelihood or money through rag-picking to meet basic needs of the family.

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:** In the context of the Seemapuri slum described in

”Lost Spring,” survival is a daily struggle linked directly to rag-picking.

**Step 2: Identifying Roles:** The author highlights that for the residents of Seemapuri, rag-picking is the only means of existence. Children do not just play; they work alongside adults.

**Step 3: Detailed Explanation:** The phrase ”partners in survival” signifies that their contribution is not recreational but essential for the family’s financial sustenance. Without their labor, the family would struggle to provide even a single meal.

**Step 4: Final Answer:** It suggests that children actively participate in earning the family’s daily bread from a young age.

#### Quick Tip

When a question asks to ”complete a sentence appropriately,” look for the direct consequence or the underlying cause described in that specific paragraph.

---

**9(a)(ii). Rag-picking has acquired the proportion of a fine art means :**

- (A) artistic bend of mind is required.
- (B) it has proportionately displaced art.
- (C) it has become a highly skilful activity.
- (D) it has discovered pieces of art.

**Correct Answer:** (C) it has become a highly skilful activity.

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:** The metaphor ”fine art” is used here to describe how the act of rag-picking has been refined over time.

**Step 2: Analyzing the Context:** Through years of practice, the rag-pickers have developed specific skills to identify valuable items in the garbage.

**Step 3: Detailed Explanation:** It is no longer just a random search; it requires a certain eye for detail and a method to extract ”gold” from waste. The phrase emphasizes the efficiency and specialized nature the task has taken on for the community.

**Step 4: Final Answer:** The correct option is (C).

#### Quick Tip

In literary contexts, comparing a mundane or difficult task to ”fine art” usually highlights the extreme skill or specialization involved.

---

9(a)(iii). State whether the given statement is True or False with reference to the extract.

The children and their parents have left Dhaka to live in Seemapuri.

**Correct Answer:** True

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:** This question tests the factual background of the characters in the story "Lost Spring."

**Step 2: Verification:** Saheb and his family are migrants from Bangladesh. The text mentions that their homes and green fields in Dhaka were swept away by storms.

**Step 3: Logical Conclusion:** They moved to the periphery of Delhi, specifically Seemapuri, in search of gold (livelihood).

**Step 4: Final Answer:** The statement is True.

#### Quick Tip

Character backstories in "Lost Spring" often involve migration due to natural disasters or poverty.

---

9(a)(iv). Why does the author say 'survival in Seemapuri means rag-picking'?

**Correct Answer:** The author says this because rag-picking is the only source of income and the primary means of providing daily bread and a roof for the inhabitants of Seemapuri.

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:** The author establishes a direct equivalence between the location (Seemapuri) and the occupation (rag-picking).

**Step 2: Contextual Background:** Seemapuri is inhabited by illegal migrants who have no formal identity or job opportunities. They depend entirely on what they can salvage from the city's waste.

**Step 3: Detailed Explanation:** Without rag-picking, they would have no food or shelter, making it synonymous with survival itself.

**Step 4: Final Answer:** It is their only means of livelihood and existence.

### Quick Tip

Look for sentences in the text that define a place by its primary economic activity.

9(a)(v). What does the phrase “for a child it is even more” reveal about the children’s dreams ?

**Correct Answer:** It reveals that for children, garbage is not just a means of survival but is “wrapped in wonder,” offering the hope of finding something precious or magical like a coin or a toy.

#### Solution:

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:** The author contrasts the adult’s perspective (utilitarian) with the child’s perspective (imaginative).

**Step 2: Analyzing Perspectives:** For adults, garbage is “gold” because it buys bread. For a child, the search is fueled by wonder.

**Step 3: Detailed Explanation:** They might find a ten-rupee note or a silver coin. This suggests that despite their poverty, children still harbor dreams and a sense of mystery about the world around them.

**Step 4: Final Answer:** It shows that children view garbage with curiosity and hope for finding unexpected treasures.

### Quick Tip

“Wrapped in wonder” is a recurring phrase in this chapter to describe the psychological state of the children.

9(a)(vi). Which of the following headlines suggests the central idea of the extract ?

- (A) Seemapuri, A Pot of Gold
- (B) Rag-picking – Different Perspectives
- (C) Art in Delhi and in Seemapuri
- (D) Saheb-e-Alam in Seemapuri

**Correct Answer:** (B) Rag-picking – Different Perspectives

#### Solution:

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:** A central idea headline should encompass all the main points discussed in the passage.

**Step 2: Evaluating Content:** The extract discusses rag-picking as a means of survival for parents and as an "art" or "wonder" for children.

**Step 3: Detailed Explanation:** Since it covers the functional, psychological, and social aspects of the activity, "Different Perspectives" is the most comprehensive title.

**Step 4: Final Answer:** The correct option is (B).

#### Quick Tip

A good headline for a central idea usually avoids being too specific (like D) or too literal (like A).

---

**OR 9. (b) This settlement was adopted unanimously by the commission. Gandhi explained that the amount of the refund was less important than the fact that the landlords had been obliged to surrender part of the money and, with it, part of their prestige. Therefore, as far as the peasants were concerned, the planters had behaved as lords above the law. Now the peasant saw that he had rights and defenders. He learned courage.**

**9(b)(i). What was Gandhi's purpose in agreeing to the settlement, even at a lesser amount ?**

**Correct Answer:** Gandhi's purpose was to break the deadlock and emphasize that the landlords' surrender of prestige and money was more important than the actual amount of the refund.

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:** Gandhi's strategy in Champaran was focused on psychological and moral empowerment of the peasants.

**Step 2: Analyzing the Conflict:** The landlords offered only a 25% refund, hoping Gandhi would refuse and the struggle would stall.

**Step 3: Detailed Explanation:** By accepting, Gandhi ensured a victory where the "lords above the law" were forced to bow to justice. The monetary loss to the landlords was secondary to the loss of their "prestige."

**Step 4: Final Answer:** He wanted to prove that the law and justice could prevail over the planters' authority.

### Quick Tip

In history-based literature, look for the symbolic victory over the material one.

---

**9(b)(ii). Complete the sentence with one word :**

**The commission agreed by common consent, or in other words, they agreed to the settlement -----.**

**Correct Answer:** unanimously.

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:** Identify a synonym for "common consent" used in the context of the passage.

**Step 2: Textual Evidence:** The first sentence of the extract says: "This settlement was adopted unanimously by the commission."

**Step 3: Definition:** "Unanimously" means everyone was in agreement or by common consent.

**Step 4: Final Answer:** The missing word is unanimously.

### Quick Tip

Check the first or last sentences of a paragraph for keywords that summarize group decisions.

---

**9(b)(iii). Explain the impact on the landlords as a result of the settlement.**

**Correct Answer:** The landlords suffered a loss of money and, more importantly, a loss of prestige as they were forced to surrender to the law.

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:** Analyze the immediate consequences for the planters/landlords following the commission's decision.

**Step 2: Identifying the Loss:** The settlement required them to refund part of the money they had illegally taken from peasants.

**Step 3: Detailed Explanation:** Beyond financial loss, it destroyed their image of being untouchable authorities. They realized they were not "above the law."

**Step 4: Final Answer:** They lost both financial resources and their social/legal dominance.

**Quick Tip**

Impacts are often twofold: physical/material (money) and psychological/social (prestige).

---

**9(b)(iv). Based on the content provided in the extract, select the most likely option about the behaviour of the landlords.**

- (A) The landlords were sorry for their behaviour.
- (B) The landlords were obstinate and refused Gandhi's suggestion.
- (C) The landlords had to refund the money.
- (D) The landlords and the planters became partners in the Indigo plantation.

**Correct Answer:** (C) The landlords had to refund the money.

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:** Evaluate the options based strictly on the factual outcome described in the text.

**Step 2: Elimination Process:** There is no mention of the landlords being "sorry" (A). While they were initially obstinate, they eventually accepted the settlement (B is incorrect).

**Step 3: Identifying Truth:** The text explicitly mentions they were "obliged to surrender part of the money" (C).

**Step 4: Final Answer:** The correct option is (C).

**Quick Tip**

In multiple-choice questions based on extracts, eliminate options that infer emotions not stated in the text.

---

**9(b)(v). What did the peasants realize from the Champaran incident ?**

**Correct Answer:** The peasants realized that they had rights and defenders, which helped them learn courage.

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:** Identify the change in the mindset of the peasants as stated in the final lines of the extract.

**Step 2: Contrast:** Before the incident, the peasants were crushed and fear-stricken.

**Step 3: Detailed Explanation:** The success of the settlement showed them that they were not helpless. They recognized that legal systems and people like Gandhi would stand by them.

**Step 4: Final Answer:** They learned that they were entitled to rights and developed the courage to fight for them.

**Quick Tip**

Transformation of character (from fear to courage) is a key theme in the story "Indigo."

---

**9(b)(vi). Complete the sentence appropriately.**

The phrase 'lords above the law' suggests that \_\_\_\_\_.

**Correct Answer:** the landlords believed they were not bound by any laws and could behave with absolute authority over the peasants without any legal consequences.

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:** Interpret the metaphor "lords above the law" in the socio-political context of British India.

**Step 2: Contextual Meaning:** It suggests a state of tyranny where the powerful act as if the rules of the land do not apply to them.

**Step 3: Detailed Explanation:** The landlords exerted total control, ignoring peasant rights. The settlement changed this by bringing them under the jurisdiction of a legal commission.

**Step 4: Final Answer:** It implies their belief in their own untouchable and absolute power.

**Quick Tip**

"Above the law" is a standard idiom for someone who thinks they are immune to legal consequences.

---

**10(i). What was the 'thunderclap' the narrator received as M. Hamel began the lesson ? (The Last Lesson)**

**Correct Answer:** The 'thunderclap' was M. Hamel's announcement that an order had come from Berlin to teach only German in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine, making this their last French lesson.

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:** A "thunderclap" refers to a shocking and sudden piece of news.

**Step 2: Narrative Context:** Franz arrived at school expecting the usual routine or a scolding. Instead, he was met with the devastating news that his native language was being banned.

**Step 3: Detailed Explanation:** The realization that he would never learn his language properly again was a sudden, painful shock that changed his entire perspective.

**Step 4: Final Answer:** It refers to the sudden and traumatic news that French would no longer be taught in schools.

**Quick Tip**

Identify how the word "thunderclap" perfectly describes the psychological impact of the news on a young child.

---

**10(ii). Explain the sentence "an army of barefoot boys who appear like the morning birds and disappear at noon." (Lost Spring)**

**Correct Answer:** It refers to the group of young rag-pickers who start their work early in the morning and vanish by midday after finishing their scavenging.

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:** The author uses a simile to describe the routine of the impoverished children in Seemapuri.

**Step 2: Analyzing the Imagery:** Just as birds are most active at dawn, these boys are seen in the morning searching through garbage.

**Step 3: Detailed Explanation:** The word "army" suggests their large numbers, while the bird comparison highlights their transitory, ghost-like presence in the city.

**Step 4: Final Answer:** It portrays the daily scavenging routine of the large number of child rag-pickers.

**Quick Tip**

The comparison to "birds" highlights the boys' freedom and their vulnerability/lack of permanent status.

---

10(iii). The lesson ‘The Rattrap’ is both entertaining and philosophical. Do you agree with the statement ? Give reasons. (The Rattrap)

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Evaluating the Narrative:** The story is entertaining because it reads like a fairy tale, filled with humor and the peddler’s comical interactions.

**Step 2: Evaluating the Philosophy:** It is philosophical due to the central metaphor that the entire world is a ”rattrap” where riches act as baits.

**Step 3: Detailed Explanation:** The conclusion provides a profound message about the redemptive power of kindness and compassion shown by Edla.

**Step 4: Final Answer:** Yes, it combines a whimsical narrative with a serious inquiry into human nature.

**Quick Tip**

Mention the ”rattrap” metaphor to cover the philosophical part and the ”fairy-tale ending” for the entertaining part.

---

10(iv). Bring out the contrast between Jansie and Sophie in the story ‘Going Places’. (Going Places)

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Analyzing Sophie:** Sophie is a dreamer, highly imaginative, and unrealistic. She seeks escapism through fantasies of being an actress or boutique owner.

**Step 2: Analyzing Jansie:** Jansie is pragmatic, realistic, and down-to-earth. She understands their financial limitations and future in the biscuit factory.

**Step 3: Detailed Explanation:** While Sophie lives in a world of ”hero-worship” and ”going places,” Jansie is grounded in the harsh reality of their social class.

**Step 4: Final Answer:** Sophie represents fantasy and escapism, while Jansie represents harsh reality and pragmatism.

### Quick Tip

Keywords for Jansie: Practical, realistic. Keywords for Sophie: Dreamer, imaginative, infatuated.

---

**10(v). How was there a great deal of national integration in the make-up department ? (Poets and Pancakes)**

**Correct Answer:** National integration was evident because the department was headed by people from different states like Bengal, Maharashtra, and Karnataka, working alongside local Tamils and Anglo-Indians.

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:** The author describes the composition of the staff at Gemini Studios to highlight Indian unity.

**Step 2: Identifying the Diversity:** The department included a Bengali, a Maharashtrian, a Dharwar Kannadiga, an Andhra, and a Madras Indian Christian.

**Step 3: Detailed Explanation:** They all worked together in harmony long before national integration programs became a formal government agenda.

**Step 4: Final Answer:** The presence of staff from diverse linguistic and regional backgrounds demonstrated a unified working environment.

### Quick Tip

This is a satirical observation by the author about how a cinema studio was ahead of its time in terms of social unity.

---

**10(vi). Did Umberto Eco like to be identified as a novelist ? Give reasons in support of your answer. (The Interview)**

**Correct Answer:** No, he preferred to be identified as an academician or university professor who wrote novels only on Sundays.

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Understanding Eco's Perspective:** Eco considered his scholarly work on semiotics and aesthetics his primary contribution.

**Step 2: Supporting Evidence:** He stated that he participated in academic conferences rather than writers' pen clubs.

**Step 3: Detailed Explanation:** He famously noted that he wrote novels on Sundays to reach a wider audience, but his core identity was that of a professor.

**Step 4: Final Answer:** He identified with the academic community and saw novel-writing as a secondary, part-time pursuit.

#### Quick Tip

Remember his quote: "I am a professor who writes novels on Sundays."

---

**11(i). Do you think the prediction made by the state astrologer "was indisputably disproved" ? Give reasons in support of your answer. (The Tiger King)**

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Analyzing the Climax:** The Maharaja shot the hundredth tiger, but it only fainted. It was later killed by his hunters, meaning the King didn't kill it.

**Step 2: Analyzing the Prophecy:** The prophecy was that a tiger would cause his death. The "hundredth tiger" turned out to be a toy wooden tiger.

**Step 3: Detailed Explanation:** A sliver of wood from the toy caused an infection that led to the King's death. Thus, the tiger did indeed cause his end.

**Step 4: Final Answer:** No, the prediction was ironically fulfilled because the "hundredth tiger" (the toy) eventually killed the King.

#### Quick Tip

"Dramatic Irony" is the literary device that makes the prophecy come true in an unexpected way.

---

**11(ii). "Then I lost my spirit." What are the incidents that led Zitkala-Sa to feel this way ? (Memories of Childhood)**

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Identifying the Conflict:** Zitkala-Sa was subjected to the strict and alienating rules

of the Carlisle Indian School.

**Step 2: The Primary Incident:** The forceful cutting of her long hair was the final blow. In her culture, this was a sign of being a coward or a captive.

**Step 3: Detailed Explanation:** Despite her struggles and hiding, she was dragged out and tied to a chair. The loss of her cultural identity crushed her resistance.

**Step 4: Final Answer:** The physical humiliation and the cultural insult of her hair being cut led to her feeling defeated.

#### Quick Tip

Focus on the word "spirit"—it refers to her inner strength and pride in her heritage.

---

11(iii). Tishani Doshi considered the programme 'Students on Ice' a success. Do you agree with her ? Why/Why not ? (Journey to the End of the Earth)

#### Solution:

**Step 1: Evaluating the Goal:** The programme aims to take "future policy makers" to Antarctica to see the effects of climate change firsthand.

**Step 2: Analyzing the Impact:** It provides a life-changing experience that fosters a new respect for the planet by showing retreating glaciers and collapsing ice shelves.

**Step 3: Detailed Explanation:** Students are at an age where they are ready to absorb knowledge and take action when they assume leadership roles.

**Step 4: Final Answer:** The success lies in providing real-world environmental education to the youth who will shape future climate policies.

#### Quick Tip

The key phrase is "future policy makers"—this is why the author targets students specifically.

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12(a). Franz in "The Last Lesson" realizes the importance of going to school while Saheb in "Lost Spring" yearns to go to school. Write a paragraph exploring the different perspectives of these two young boys on learning and education.

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Comparing Privilege vs. Deprivation:** Franz takes his education for granted until it is snatched away, while Saheb sees it as an impossible dream.

**Step 2: Analyzing Franz:** He represents a typical student who finds school a burden and prefers leisure. His realization is born out of regret once French is banned.

**Step 3: Analyzing Saheb:** He represents the marginalized child for whom school is a "mirage." His eyes light up at the mention of a school because he sees it as a path to a better life.

**Step 4: Final Answer:** While one boy realizes education's value through its sudden absence, the other dreams of it because of its total unavailability.

**Quick Tip**

Contrasting "privilege" vs. "poverty" is the most effective way to answer comparison questions between these two stories.

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**OR**

**12(b). Write a comparative analysis for your study group focusing on how the poems "Keeping Quiet" and "My Mother at Sixty-six" illuminate the different facets of human introspection and the significance of quiet reflection in understanding oneself.**

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Analyzing "Keeping Quiet":** Neruda advocates for a global stillness to understand the harm humans cause to nature and each other. It is a social and environmental introspection.

**Step 2: Analyzing "My Mother at Sixty-six":** Kamala Das presents an intensely personal introspection. Her quiet reflection is a coping mechanism for the fear of losing her mother.

**Step 3: Detailed Explanation:** Silence in "Keeping Quiet" is a tool for global healing, whereas in Das's poem, it is a private emotional refuge to process grief.

**Step 4: Final Answer:** One poem uses silence for global healing, while the other uses it as a private emotional refuge to process personal grief and aging.

**Quick Tip**

Define "introspection" differently for each poem: "Macro/Global" for Keeping Quiet and "Micro/Personal" for My Mother at Sixty-six.

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**13(a). Justify the statement, ‘It may take a long time for oppression to be resisted but the seeds of rebellion are sowed early in life.’ (Memories of Childhood)**

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Analyzing Zitkala-Sa:** Her early rebellion began with the cutting of her hair. The anger she felt as a child provided the spark for her later activism.

**Step 2: Analyzing Bama:** As a child, she witnessed the humiliation of an elder due to untouchability. Her anger was channeled into education as a means of resistance.

**Step 3: Detailed Explanation:** Both women faced injustice early on. These childhood traumas didn’t just hurt them; they ”provoked” a lifelong commitment to fighting social barriers.

**Step 4: Final Answer:** The early encounters with injustice and the resulting refusal to submit provide the foundation for future social and personal rebellion.

**Quick Tip**

Mention specific incidents like ”hair cutting” for Zitkala-Sa and ”the man with the packet” for Bama to justify the ”early seeds.”

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**OR**

**13(b). The story “The Tiger King” is a satire on the conceit of those in power. How does the author employ the literary device of dramatic irony in the story ? (The Tiger King)**

**Solution:**

**Step 1: Analyzing Satire:** The King misuses his absolute power to hunt tigers just to prove an astrologer wrong, ignoring his duties to the state.

**Step 2: Analyzing Dramatic Irony:** The reader knows the 100th tiger didn’t die by the King’s hand, but the King remains in a fool’s paradise.

**Step 3: Detailed Explanation:** The final irony is that a harmless toy tiger becomes the instrument of fate, proving that man’s conceit cannot defeat death.

**Step 4: Final Answer:** The irony lies in the King’s false victory and his death by a harmless object, proving that nature and fate are superior to the arrogance of man.

### Quick Tip

Explain "Dramatic Irony" as: Reader's knowledge  $\neq$  Character's knowledge. The reader knows the 100th tiger lived; the King doesn't.

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