

Haryana Board Class 10, 2026 English Question Paper with Solutions

Time Allowed :3 Hours

Maximum Marks :80

Total questions :38

General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. The paper is divided into Section A and Section B.
2. Section A includes objective-type questions.
3. All questions in Section A are compulsory.
4. Section B includes short answer, and long answer type questions.
5. Answers must be written legibly within the word limit.
6. Use of unfair means or electronic devices is prohibited.
7. Follow the correct format and instructions for each section.

Section - A

1. Fill in the blanks with the correct option.

It ____ just _____ (strike) ten.

- (A) had just struck
- (B) has just struck
- (C) has been just striking
- (D) is just struck

Correct Answer: (B) has just struck

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the sentence.

The sentence describes an action that has happened **very recently**. The word “**just**” indicates that the event occurred a moment ago. In English grammar, the **present perfect**

tense is commonly used to describe actions that have happened recently and are connected to the present time.

Step 2: Present perfect structure.

The structure of the present perfect tense is:

Subject + has/have + past participle.

In this sentence, the subject is “**It**”, so we use **has**. The past participle of **strike** is **struck**.

Therefore the correct phrase becomes “**has just struck**”.

Step 3: Checking the options.

- **(A) had just struck:** Past perfect tense; used for an action completed before another past action.
- **(B) has just struck:** Correct; present perfect tense indicates a recent action.
- **(C) has been just striking:** Incorrect continuous form.
- **(D) is just struck:** Grammatically incorrect structure.

Step 4: Conclusion.

Thus the correct sentence is: **It has just struck ten.**

Final Answer: has just struck.

Quick Tip

Use the present perfect tense with words like **just, already, and yet** to describe actions that happened recently.

2. Fill in the blank with the correct option.

----- (smell) something burning.

- (A) am smelling
- (B) was smelling
- (C) smell
- (D) have been smelling

Correct Answer: (C) smell

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the verb “smell”.

The verb “**smell**” can function as a **verb of perception**. Verbs of perception such as **see, hear, feel, taste, and smell** are often used in the **simple present tense** rather than the continuous form when describing senses.

Step 2: Correct tense usage.

When someone becomes aware of a smell at the present moment, the correct grammatical form is the **simple present tense**. Therefore, the sentence should be written as: “**I smell something burning.**”

Step 3: Checking the options.

- **(A) am smelling:** Continuous form is generally not used with sense verbs.
- **(B) was smelling:** Past continuous tense, which does not fit the present context.
- **(C) smell:** Correct; simple present tense is appropriate.
- **(D) have been smelling:** Present perfect continuous, which is unnecessary here.

Step 4: Conclusion.

Thus, the correct sentence is: **I smell something burning.**

Final Answer: smell.

Quick Tip

Verbs of perception such as see, hear, feel, smell, and taste are usually used in the simple present tense rather than the continuous form.

3. Which is _____ longest river in India?

- (A) the
- (B) a
- (C) an

(D) No article

Correct Answer: (A) the

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the sentence structure.

The sentence asks about the **longest river in India**. The word “**longest**” is a superlative adjective. Superlative adjectives are used to compare three or more things and indicate the highest degree of a quality.

Step 2: Rule of superlative adjectives.

In English grammar, superlative adjectives such as **longest, tallest, greatest, smallest** are generally used with the definite article “**the**”. This is because the superlative refers to a **specific and unique item** within a group.

Step 3: Checking the options.

- **(A) the:** Correct. Superlative adjectives require the definite article “the”.
- **(B) a:** Incorrect. “A” is used for general or singular nouns, not with superlatives.
- **(C) an:** Incorrect. “An” is used before vowel sounds but not with superlatives.
- **(D) No article:** Incorrect. Superlative adjectives normally require “the”.

Step 4: Conclusion.

Therefore, the correct sentence is: **Which is the longest river in India?**

Final Answer: the.

Quick Tip

Always use the definite article “**the**” before superlative adjectives such as longest, tallest, largest, or best.

4. I met him at _____ church.

(A) No Article

- (B) the
- (C) a
- (D) an

Correct Answer: (B) the

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the sentence.

The sentence describes a meeting that took place at a specific place. The phrase “**at the church**” refers to a particular or identifiable location where the meeting occurred. Therefore, a definite article is required before the noun.

Step 2: Use of the definite article.

The definite article “**the**” is used when referring to a specific place or a place that is known to both the speaker and the listener. In this sentence, the speaker refers to a particular church as the meeting point.

Step 3: Evaluation of options.

- **(A) No Article:** Incorrect. Without an article, the sentence becomes grammatically incomplete.
- **(B) the:** Correct. It refers to a specific church where the meeting occurred.
- **(C) a:** Incorrect. “A” indicates any church in general, which does not clearly specify the place.
- **(D) an:** Incorrect. “An” is used before vowel sounds and does not fit here.

Step 4: Conclusion.

Thus, the correct sentence is: **I met him at the church.**

Final Answer: the.

Quick Tip

Use the definite article “**the**” when referring to a specific or known place, such as the church, the school, or the hospital.

5. Change the following sentence into indirect speech:

I say to Sheela, "You are my best friend."

- (A) I told Sheela that she was my best friend.
- (B) I tell Sheela that you are my best friend.
- (C) I tell Sheela that she is my best friend.
- (D) I ask Sheela if she is my best friend.

Correct Answer: (C) I tell Sheela that she is my best friend.

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the reporting verb.

The reporting verb in the sentence is **"say"**, which is in the **present tense**. When the reporting verb is in the present tense, the tense of the reported speech usually does not change while converting it into indirect speech.

Step 2: Change the pronouns.

The pronoun **"you"** refers to **Sheela**. Therefore, in indirect speech it becomes **"she"**. The pronoun **"my"** remains the same because the speaker remains the same.

Step 3: Use the conjunction.

In indirect speech, the reported clause is usually connected using the conjunction **"that"**.

Step 4: Form the correct sentence.

Thus the correct indirect sentence becomes:

I tell Sheela that she is my best friend.

Final Answer: I tell Sheela that she is my best friend.

Quick Tip

When the reporting verb is in the present tense (say/tell), the tense of the reported speech usually remains unchanged in indirect speech.

6. Change the following sentence into indirect speech:

My father said to Reena, "Go and wash your hands."

- (A) My father asked Reena to go and wash your hands.
- (B) My father ordered Reena to go and wash her hands.
- (C) My father told Reena to go and wash your hands.
- (D) My father told Reena if go and wash her hands.

Correct Answer: (B) My father ordered Reena to go and wash her hands.

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the sentence type.

The given sentence is an **imperative sentence** because it expresses a command or instruction. While converting such sentences into indirect speech, the reporting verb is changed to words like **told, ordered, advised, or asked**.

Step 2: Use the infinitive form.

In indirect speech, imperative sentences are usually converted using the structure:

Reporting verb + object + to + verb.

Thus the phrase becomes **"to go and wash"**.

Step 3: Change the pronoun.

The pronoun **"your"** refers to Reena, so in indirect speech it becomes **"her"**.

Step 4: Form the correct sentence.

Therefore, the correct indirect speech sentence is:

My father ordered Reena to go and wash her hands.

Final Answer: My father ordered Reena to go and wash her hands.

Quick Tip

Imperative sentences in indirect speech usually follow the structure: reporting verb + object + to + verb.

7. The Seagull thought that his wings _____ not support him.

- (A) will

- (B) shall
- (C) must
- (D) would

Correct Answer: (D) would

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the sentence structure.

The sentence is written in the past tense because it uses the word **thought**. When a sentence is reported in the past tense, the verb in the subordinate clause usually shifts to a past form as well.

Step 2: Identifying the correct modal verb.

Modal verbs such as **will**, **shall**, **must**, and **would** express different meanings. When the main clause is in the past tense, **will** generally changes to **would** to maintain proper tense agreement.

Step 3: Forming the correct sentence.

Thus, the grammatically correct sentence becomes: **The Seagull thought that his wings would not support him.**

Step 4: Analysis of options.

- **(A) will:** Incorrect. **Will** indicates future tense and does not agree with the past tense verb **thought**.
- **(B) shall:** Incorrect. **Shall** is generally used for suggestions or formal future statements and does not fit the context.
- **(C) must:** Incorrect. **Must** expresses obligation or necessity, which does not match the meaning of the sentence.
- **(D) would:** Correct. **Would** is the past form of **will** and fits correctly with the past tense verb **thought**.

Step 5: Conclusion.

Therefore, the correct modal verb that completes the sentence according to the rules of tense agreement is **would**.

Final Answer: would.

Quick Tip

When the main clause is in the past tense (e.g., **thought, said, believed**), the modal verb **will** usually changes to **would** in the subordinate clause.

8. _____ **not swim in the river as the current is very fast.**

- (A) need
- (B) must
- (C) dare
- (D) would

Correct Answer: (B) must

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the meaning of the sentence.

The sentence gives a warning or strong advice not to swim in the river because the current is very fast. Therefore, the correct modal verb should express prohibition or strong necessity.

Step 2: Understanding modal verbs.

Modal verbs such as **need, must, dare,** and **would** express different meanings in English grammar. Among them, **must** is commonly used to express strong obligation or prohibition when used in the negative form.

Step 3: Forming the correct sentence.

Using the correct modal verb, the sentence becomes: **You must not swim in the river as the current is very fast.** This clearly indicates a strong warning or prohibition.

Step 4: Analysis of options.

- **(A) need:** Incorrect. **Need not** means there is no necessity, which does not fit the warning given in the sentence.
- **(B) must:** Correct. **Must not** expresses prohibition or strong advice against doing something.

- (C) **dare**: Incorrect. **Dare not** expresses lack of courage rather than prohibition.
- (D) **would**: Incorrect. **Would not** is generally used for habitual actions in the past or conditional situations.

Step 5: Conclusion.

Since the sentence expresses a strong warning due to danger, the correct modal verb is **must**.

Final Answer: must.

Quick Tip

The negative form **must not (mustn't)** is used to express prohibition or strong warning, such as in safety instructions.

9. Fill in the blank with the correct form of the verb.

do not know how -- (drive) a car.

- (A) driving
- (B) drive
- (C) to drive
- (D) none of these

Correct Answer: (C) to drive

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the sentence structure.

The sentence expresses a lack of knowledge about performing an action. In English grammar, after expressions such as **know how, know when, know where, and know what**, the verb is generally used in the **infinitive form (to + verb)**.

Step 2: Applying the rule.

The phrase “**know how**” is followed by the infinitive form of the verb. Therefore, the correct structure becomes:

I do not know how to drive a car.

Step 3: Checking the options.

- **(A) driving:** Incorrect. The gerund form does not fit after “know how”.
- **(B) drive:** Incorrect. The base form alone is not grammatically correct here.
- **(C) to drive:** Correct. The infinitive form is required.
- **(D) none of these:** Incorrect because option (C) is correct.

Step 4: Conclusion.

Thus, the correct sentence is: **I do not know how to drive a car.**

Final Answer: to drive.

Quick Tip

After phrases like **know how, know when, know where**, the verb usually appears in the infinitive form (to + verb).

10. _____ (teach) French needs great care.

- (A) teaching
- (B) teach
- (C) to teach
- (D) having

Correct Answer: (A) teaching

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the function of the verb.

In the given sentence, the word “**teach**” must function as the **subject** of the sentence. When a verb acts as a subject, it usually appears in the form of a **gerund (verb + ing)**.

Step 2: Applying the gerund rule.

The gerund form of **teach** is **teaching**. Therefore, the correct sentence becomes:

Teaching French needs great care.

Step 3: Checking the options.

- **(A) teaching:** Correct. The gerund acts as the subject.
- **(B) teach:** Incorrect. The base form cannot act as a subject in this structure.
- **(C) to teach:** Possible in some contexts, but the gerund form is the correct and more natural structure here.
- **(D) having:** Incorrect because it does not match the verb needed.

Step 4: Conclusion.

Thus, the correct sentence is: **Teaching French needs great care.**

Final Answer: teaching.

Quick Tip

When a verb functions as the subject of a sentence, it is commonly used in the gerund form (verb + ing).

11. Why is he coming here? Do you know this?

- (A) Do you know this why he is coming here?
- (B) Do you know why he is coming here?
- (C) Do you know why was he coming here?
- (D) Do you know why he was coming here?

Correct Answer: (B) Do you know why he is coming here?

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the task.

The question asks to combine the two sentences into a single sentence using correct grammatical structure. The second sentence “**Do you know this?**” should introduce the information contained in the first sentence.

Step 2: Use of a noun clause.

The sentence “**Why is he coming here?**” should be converted into a **noun clause**. When a question is converted into a noun clause, the structure changes from interrogative order to **statement order**.

Step 3: Correct word order.

Instead of writing “**why is he coming**”, the correct order becomes “**why he is coming**”. The sentence therefore becomes:

Do you know why he is coming here?

Step 4: Checking the options.

- (A) Incorrect because the word “this” is unnecessary.
- (B) Correct because it uses proper noun clause structure.
- (C) Incorrect because of incorrect word order.
- (D) Incorrect because it unnecessarily changes the tense.

Step 5: Conclusion.

Thus the correct combined sentence is: **Do you know why he is coming here?**

Final Answer: Do you know why he is coming here?

Quick Tip

When converting a question into a noun clause, change the interrogative word order to statement word order.

12. He is Pradeep. His son won the first position in the poem recitation.

- (A) He is Pradeep who son won the first position in the poem recitation.
- (B) He is Pradeep whose son won the first position in the poem recitation.
- (C) He is Pradeep which son won the first position in the poem recitation.
- (D) He is Pradeep about whom his son won the first position in the poem recitation.

Correct Answer: (B) He is Pradeep whose son won the first position in the poem recitation.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the sentence.

The two sentences describe a person named Pradeep and give additional information about him. The second sentence tells us that his son won the first position in a poem recitation competition.

Step 2: Using a relative clause.

To combine the sentences, we use a **relative pronoun**. Since the sentence expresses possession (his son), the correct relative pronoun is “**whose**”.

Step 3: Forming the combined sentence.

Using the relative pronoun, the sentence becomes:

He is Pradeep whose son won the first position in the poem recitation.

Step 4: Checking the options.

- (A) Incorrect because “who son” is grammatically wrong.
- (B) Correct because “whose” shows possession.
- (C) Incorrect because “which” is used for things, not persons.
- (D) Incorrect because the structure is grammatically incorrect.

Step 5: Conclusion.

Therefore, the correct combined sentence is: **He is Pradeep whose son won the first position in the poem recitation.**

Final Answer: He is Pradeep whose son won the first position in the poem recitation.

Quick Tip

Use the relative pronoun “**whose**” to show possession when referring to people.

Section - B

13. Write a letter to the Deputy Commissioner of your city about the nuisance caused by rhesus monkeys in your colony.

Solution:

Sender's Address:

House No. 24, Green Park Colony
Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

Date:

15 March 2026

To

The Deputy Commissioner
Bhopal City
Madhya Pradesh

Subject: Complaint regarding nuisance caused by rhesus monkeys in our colony.

Respected Sir,

I am a resident of Green Park Colony and I would like to bring to your kind attention the serious nuisance caused by rhesus monkeys in our locality. A large number of monkeys roam freely in the colony and create problems for the residents. They enter houses, damage property, snatch food items and create fear among children and elderly people.

Many residents have already suffered injuries while trying to protect themselves from these monkeys. The situation has become dangerous and disturbing for everyone living in the area. It has also become difficult for children to go to school safely.

Therefore, I kindly request you to take immediate action to control this problem.

Arrangements may be made to capture the monkeys and relocate them to a safer place so that the residents of the colony can live peacefully.

I hope the authorities will take necessary steps at the earliest to solve this issue.

Thanking you.

Yours faithfully,

Rahul Sharma

Quick Tip

While writing a formal complaint letter, always mention the problem clearly, include the place and request the authority politely to take necessary action.

14. Write an application to the Principal of your school requesting him to organise an awareness camp on the Right to Education.

Solution:

To

The Principal
Government Higher Secondary School
Bhopal

Date:

15 March 2026

Subject: Request to organise an awareness camp on the Right to Education.

Respected Sir,

I am a student of Class X of your esteemed school. I would like to draw your attention to the importance of spreading awareness about the Right to Education among students and the community. Many people are still unaware of their educational rights and the benefits provided under this act.

An awareness camp in the school will help students understand the importance of education and inform them about their rights and responsibilities. Such a programme will also encourage parents to send their children to school and ensure proper education for all. Therefore, I humbly request you to kindly organise an awareness camp in our school regarding the Right to Education. This initiative will greatly benefit the students as well as the community.

I shall be highly grateful for your kind consideration.

Thanking you.

Yours obediently,

Amit Verma

Class X

Quick Tip

An application to the Principal should be polite, clear and include the purpose of the request along with its benefits.

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

In life, every man has twin obligations — obligations to his family, to his parents, to his wife and children; and he has an obligation to his people, his community, his country. In a civil and humane society, each man is able to fulfil those obligations according to his own inclinations and abilities. But in a country like South Africa, it was almost impossible for a man of my birth and colour to fulfil both of those obligations.

15(a). Name the chapter from which the extract has been taken.

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the source of the passage.

The passage discusses the concept of twin obligations and the difficulty faced by Nelson Mandela in fulfilling them due to racial discrimination in South Africa.

Step 2: Recognize the literary context.

These ideas are expressed in Nelson Mandela's autobiographical narrative where he reflects on his struggle against apartheid and his responsibilities toward his people and nation.

Step 3: Determine the chapter name.

The extract is taken from the chapter "**Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom**", which describes Mandela's life, sacrifices, and the fight for equality in South Africa.

Step 4: Conclude the answer.

Therefore, the chapter from which the passage has been taken is "**Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom**".

Quick Tip

"Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom" is an autobiographical extract that describes Mandela's struggle against apartheid and his commitment to justice and equality.

15(b). What are the twin obligations of a man?

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the meaning of obligations.

An obligation refers to a duty or responsibility that a person must fulfil in life. According to Nelson Mandela, every human being has certain responsibilities toward others.

Step 2: Identify the first obligation.

The first obligation of a man is towards his **family**, including his parents, wife, and children. A person is expected to care for and support his family members.

Step 3: Identify the second obligation.

The second obligation is towards his **people, community, and country**. A responsible individual should contribute to the welfare and progress of society and the nation.

Step 4: Context of Mandela's statement.

Nelson Mandela explains that in a fair society a person can fulfil both obligations. However, due to racial discrimination in South Africa, he found it difficult to fulfil both responsibilities at the same time.

Step 5: Final conclusion.

Thus, the twin obligations of a man are responsibilities toward **his family** and toward **his people, community, and country**.

Quick Tip

According to Nelson Mandela, a balanced life involves fulfilling duties toward both family and society.

15(c). What type of a society is required to fulfil both obligations?

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the statement in the passage.

The passage explains that every man has two responsibilities in life — one towards his family and another towards his people and country.

Step 2: Identify the condition mentioned.

Nelson Mandela states that in a **civil and humane society**, a person can fulfil both obligations according to his abilities and interests.

Step 3: Explain the meaning of such a society.

A civil and humane society is one where people enjoy equality, freedom, justice, and opportunities without discrimination.

Step 4: Conclude the answer.

Therefore, a **civil and humane society** is required so that a person can fulfil responsibilities towards both family and country.

Quick Tip

A civil and humane society ensures equality and freedom so individuals can perform duties toward both family and nation.

15(d). Why was it impossible for a black man to fulfil both of the obligations?

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the historical background.

The passage refers to South Africa during the period of **apartheid**, when strict racial discrimination existed against black people.

Step 2: Identify the restrictions faced by black people.

Black people were denied basic rights such as freedom, equality, and participation in political life. They were not allowed to live freely or work without restrictions.

Step 3: Link this situation to Mandela's obligations.

Because of these discriminatory laws, Nelson Mandela had to dedicate his life to fighting for the freedom of his people. This struggle made it difficult for him to fulfil his responsibilities toward his family.

Step 4: Conclude the answer.

Thus, due to racial discrimination and apartheid policies in South Africa, it was almost impossible for a black man to fulfil both obligations simultaneously.

Quick Tip

Apartheid in South Africa denied black people equality and freedom, making it difficult for them to balance personal and national responsibilities.

15(e). Which word in the passage means the same as ‘leaning’?

Solution:

Step 1: Locate the word related to the meaning.

In the passage, the word **inclinations** is used in the sentence describing how a person fulfils obligations according to his abilities.

Step 2: Understand the meaning of the word.

The word **inclinations** means a natural tendency, preference, or leaning toward something.

Step 3: Identify the synonym.

Since “leaning” means a tendency or preference, the word in the passage that has the same meaning is **inclinations**.

Step 4: Conclude the answer.

Therefore, the word in the passage that means the same as “leaning” is **inclinations**.

Quick Tip

The word “inclination” means a natural tendency or preference toward something.

16(a). What is the central idea of the poem ‘Fire and Ice’?

Solution:

Step 1: Introduction to the poem.

The poem **Fire and Ice** is written by Robert Frost. In this short poem, the poet discusses the possible ways in which the world might end. He uses the symbols of fire and ice to represent powerful human emotions.

Step 2: Meaning of fire.

In the poem, **fire** symbolizes intense human emotions such as desire, greed, anger and uncontrolled passion. These emotions can lead to destruction if they are not controlled. According to the poet, excessive desire and greed may cause the end of the world.

Step 3: Meaning of ice.

Ice represents feelings such as hatred, indifference and coldness. These negative emotions can also destroy relationships and society. Frost suggests that hatred and lack of compassion can be just as destructive as uncontrolled desire.

Step 4: Central message of the poem.

The poet conveys that both extreme desire (fire) and hatred (ice) have the power to destroy the world. Through this comparison, Frost highlights the dangerous consequences of human emotions when they are taken to extremes.

Step 5: Conclusion.

Thus, the central idea of the poem is that destructive human emotions like desire and hatred can ultimately lead to the downfall of humanity. The poem serves as a warning about controlling these emotions.

Quick Tip

In the poem, **fire represents desire** and **ice represents hatred**. Both are symbols of destructive human emotions.

16(b). Why does the boy shake in grief? (The Ball Poem)

Solution:

Step 1: Introduction to the situation in the poem.

In the poem **The Ball Poem** by John Berryman, a young boy accidentally loses his ball when it falls into the water and is carried away. The ball was very important to him and he had emotional attachment to it.

Step 2: Reason for the boy's grief.

The boy shakes in grief because he realizes that the ball is lost forever. It was not just a toy but something he loved deeply. Losing it makes him feel helpless and sad.

Step 3: Emotional realization.

The loss of the ball represents the boy's first experience of losing something valuable in life. This moment teaches him an important lesson about loss and responsibility.

Step 4: Meaning behind the reaction.

The boy's shaking shows the depth of his sorrow and the emotional impact of the loss. Through this experience, he begins to understand that in life people must learn to accept losses.

Step 5: Conclusion.

Therefore, the boy shakes in grief because he feels the pain of losing his beloved ball and learns an important lesson about the realities of life and loss.

Quick Tip

The lost ball in the poem symbolizes the first experience of loss in life and teaches the boy to accept responsibility and reality.

16(c). What does the poet compare their branches to in the poem 'The Trees'?

Solution:

Step 1: Introduction to the poem.

The poem **The Trees** is written by **Adrienne Rich**. In this poem, the poet describes trees that move out of the house and return to the forest. The poem symbolically represents freedom, growth and the power of nature.

Step 2: Description of the branches.

In the poem, the poet describes the movement of the branches as the trees try to free themselves from the confined space of the house. The branches stretch outward toward the forest.

Step 3: Comparison used by the poet.

The poet compares the branches of the trees to **stiff patients who have been long confined in hospital**. Just like patients who slowly move their stiff limbs after a long period of rest, the branches move awkwardly and slowly as they reach out toward the outside world.

Step 4: Meaning of the comparison.

This comparison highlights the idea that the trees were restricted or trapped inside the house for a long time. Their movement toward freedom is gradual and careful, similar to how patients slowly recover their strength.

Step 5: Conclusion.

Thus, the poet compares the branches of the trees to **stiff patients moving their limbs after long confinement**, symbolizing their slow and careful movement toward freedom.

Quick Tip

In the poem *The Trees*, the comparison of branches with hospital patients emphasizes the slow movement and the idea of gaining freedom after confinement.

16(d). Who is according to you, really brave in the poem 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon'?

Solution:

Step 1: Introduction to the poem.

The poem **The Tale of Custard the Dragon** is written by **Ogden Nash**. It tells the story of a dragon named Custard who lives with Belinda and her pets Ink, Blink and Mustard.

Although the other characters consider themselves brave, they often make fun of Custard for being timid.

Step 2: Behavior of the other characters.

Belinda and her pets Ink (the cat), Blink (the mouse) and Mustard (the dog) boast about their bravery. However, when a pirate suddenly appears, they become frightened and run away to hide.

Step 3: Custard's brave action.

Custard, who was always considered a coward, shows real courage at the crucial moment. He bravely fights the pirate and eats him, thereby saving Belinda and the other pets.

Step 4: Meaning of real bravery.

The poem shows that true bravery is revealed during difficult situations. Those who only

boast about courage may fail in real danger, while someone who seems timid may prove to be truly brave when needed.

Step 5: Conclusion.

Therefore, Custard the Dragon is the one who is truly brave in the poem because he alone faces the pirate and protects everyone else.

Quick Tip

True bravery is not about boasting but about facing danger with courage when the situation demands it.