

UP Board Class 10 English 817 HJ - 2024 Question Paper with Solutions

Time Allowed :3 Hours 15 Minutes	Maximum Marks :70	Total Questions :30
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General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. First 15 minutes are allotted to the candidates for reading the question paper.
2. All questions are compulsory.
3. This question paper is divided into two parts: Part-A and Part-B
4. Part-A consists of 20 Multiple Choice Questions of one mark each that have to be answered on the OMR Answer Sheet.
5. For Part-A read the question-wise instructions and mark your answer on the given OMR sheet only. Do not erase, cut or use whitener on the OMR sheet after answering.
6. Marks of the questions are mentioned against them.
7. Part-B consists of Descriptive Type Questions of 50 marks.
8. All the questions of Part-B are to be attempted.

Part - A

Questions No. 1 – 3

Read the following passage carefully and choose the correct option to answer the questions that follow:

In the olden days in England, the laws were very cruel. A man could be hanged for a very small offence. The Sheriffs who were the keepers of the law. were ignorant men and would hang a man on little or no evidence. Often when a man feared some punishment from the Sheriff, he would run away to the forest. In the forest he would join the company of other men who had come there like him. Such men were called 'outlaws'. They made their living by hunting deer or by robbing travellers on the highways.

1. What was the punishment for a small offence in England during the olden days?

- (A) Imprisonment
- (B) Fine
- (C) Exile
- (D) Hanging.

Correct Answer: (D) Hanging.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question

The question asks about the punishment for a minor crime in England in the past, based on the provided passage.

Step 2: Locating the Information in the Passage

We need to scan the passage for keywords like "punishment" and "small offence".

The second sentence of the passage states: "A man could be **hanged for a very small offence.**"

Step 3: Analyzing the Options

- (A) Imprisonment is not mentioned as a punishment for a small offence.
- (B) Fine is not mentioned.
- (C) Exile is not mentioned.
- (D) Hanging is explicitly mentioned as the punishment.

Step 4: Final Answer

Based on the direct information from the passage, the correct punishment for a small offence was hanging.

Quick Tip

For reading comprehension questions, always locate the exact sentence in the passage that answers the question. The answer is usually stated directly or can be inferred from the text.

2. Who were the keepers of the law in England during the olden days?

- (A) Judges
- (B) Sheriffs.
- (C) Lawyers
- (D) Politicians

Correct Answer: (B) Sheriffs.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question

The question asks to identify who was responsible for enforcing the law in England during the period described in the passage.

Step 2: Locating the Information in the Passage

We need to search for the phrase "keepers of the law" in the text.

The third sentence says: "The **Sheriffs who were the keepers of the law**. were ignorant men..."

Step 3: Analyzing the Options

- (A) Judges are not mentioned as the keepers of the law in this context.
- (B) Sheriffs are explicitly identified as the "keepers of the law".
- (C) Lawyers are not mentioned in the passage.
- (D) Politicians are not mentioned in the passage.

Step 4: Final Answer

The passage clearly states that the Sheriffs were the keepers of the law. Therefore, option (B) is the correct answer.

Quick Tip

Pay close attention to descriptive clauses (like "who were the keepers of the law"). They often provide key definitions or roles of characters or groups mentioned in a text.

3. Why did a man run away to the forest during the olden days in England?

- (A) To join the army
- (B) To hunt deer
- (C) To rob travellers
- (D) To escape punishment from the Sheriff.

Correct Answer: (D) To escape punishment from the Sheriff.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question

The question asks for the reason why men would flee to the forest.

Step 2: Locating the Information in the Passage

We should look for keywords like "run away" and "forest".

The fourth sentence states: "Often when a man **feared some punishment from the Sheriff, he would run away to the forest.**"

The passage later mentions that once in the forest, these men (outlaws) would hunt deer and rob travellers to survive, but that was not the initial reason for running away.

Step 3: Analyzing the Options

- (A) Joining the army is not mentioned as a reason.
- (B) Hunting deer was a means of survival in the forest, not the reason for going there.

- (C) Robbing travellers was also a means of survival, not the primary reason for fleeing.
(D) Escaping punishment from the Sheriff is the exact reason given in the passage.

Step 4: Final Answer

The passage directly links running away to the forest with the fear of punishment from the Sheriff. Thus, option (D) is correct.

Quick Tip

Differentiate between the cause and the effect. The question asks for the 'why' (the cause of running away), not 'what they did after' (the effect of being in the forest).

4. I met _____ old friend in the temple.

- (A) a
(B) the
(C) an
(D) None of the above

Correct Answer: (C) an

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept

This question tests the use of indefinite articles ('a' and 'an'). The choice between 'a' and 'an' depends on the sound of the first letter of the word that follows.

Step 2: Key Concept

- Use 'a' before words that begin with a consonant sound. (e.g., a book, a university)
- Use 'an' before words that begin with a vowel sound (a, e, i, o, u). (e.g., an apple, an hour)

Step 3: Detailed Explanation

The word following the blank is "old".

The word "old" starts with the letter 'o', which has a vowel sound.

Therefore, the correct article to use is 'an'.

The sentence becomes: "I met an old friend in the temple."

Step 4: Final Answer

Since "old" begins with a vowel sound, 'an' is the correct article.

Quick Tip

Always focus on the sound, not the spelling. For example, it's 'an hour' (h is silent) but 'a horse' (h is pronounced). Similarly, it's 'a university' (sounds like 'yoo-niversity') but 'an umbrella'.

5. Unless he begs my pardon, I _____ not excuse him.

- (A) must
- (B) could
- (C) will
- (D) might

Correct Answer: (C) will

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept

This question tests the use of modals in a conditional sentence. The word "Unless" introduces a condition.

Step 2: Key Concept

"Unless" means "if ... not". The sentence structure is a Type 1 Conditional, which describes a real or likely situation in the future.

The structure is: **Unless + present simple, ... will + base form of the verb.**

So, the sentence can be rephrased as: "If he does not beg my pardon, I will not excuse him."

Step 3: Detailed Explanation

The first part of the sentence, "Unless he begs my pardon," is in the present simple tense.

According to the rule for Type 1 conditionals, the main clause should use the future simple tense, which is formed with "will" + verb.

Therefore, the blank should be filled with "will".

The sentence becomes: "Unless he begs my pardon, I will not excuse him."

Step 4: Final Answer

The sentence is a first conditional, requiring "will" in the main clause to indicate a future result.

Quick Tip

Remember the structure of the first conditional: If/Unless + Present Simple, ... Future Simple (will + verb). It is used for predictions, promises, or warnings about future events.

6. Rearrange the following word clusters to make a meaningful sentence :
behaviour / got / I / his / at / angry

- (A) I got angry at his behaviour.
- (B) I angry got his at behaviour.
- (C) Angry got I his behaviour at.
- (D) His behaviour angry got I at.

Correct Answer: (A) I got angry at his behaviour.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept

The task is to arrange the given words and phrases into a grammatically correct and meaningful sentence.

Step 2: Key Concept

A standard English sentence follows the SVO (Subject-Verb-Object) structure. We should identify these parts first.

- **Subject** (who or what does the action?): 'I'
- **Verb** (the action): 'got'
- **Adjective/Object** (describes the subject or receives the action): 'angry'
- **Prepositional Phrase** (gives more information): 'at his behaviour'

Step 3: Detailed Explanation

Let's assemble the parts in a logical order:

1. Start with the subject: **I**
2. Follow with the verb: **I got**
3. Add the adjective describing the subject's state: **I got angry**
4. Add the prepositional phrase to explain the reason for the anger: **I got angry at his behaviour.**

This arrangement forms a complete and coherent sentence. Let's check the options:

- (A) I got angry at his behaviour. - Correct structure.
- (B) I angry got his at behaviour. - Incorrect word order.
- (C) Angry got I his behaviour at. - Incorrect structure.
- (D) His behaviour angry got I at. - Incorrect structure.

Step 4: Final Answer

The only option that follows the correct grammatical structure is (A).

Quick Tip

When rearranging sentences, always start by finding the subject and the main verb. Then, add the object and any other phrases to build the sentence logically.

7. He prevented me ----- going to the city.

- (A) of
- (B) for
- (C) from
- (D) on

Correct Answer: (C) from

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept

This question tests knowledge of prepositions that follow specific verbs, also known as collocations or fixed prepositions.

Step 2: Key Concept

The verb "prevent" is followed by the preposition "from". The correct structure is:
prevent + someone/something + from + verb(-ing)

Step 3: Detailed Explanation

The sentence has the verb "prevented" and the object "me". The action being prevented is "going to the city".

Following the grammatical rule, the preposition that connects the object to the action it is being stopped from doing is "from".

The correct sentence is: "He prevented me **from** going to the city."

Step 4: Final Answer

The preposition that correctly follows the verb "prevent" in this context is "from".

Quick Tip

Many verbs in English are followed by specific prepositions. It's helpful to learn these as pairs, such as "prevent from", "suffer from", "interested in", "rely on", etc.

8. Which of the following words is misspelt?

- (A) Humour
- (B) Share
- (C) Briefly
- (D) Languge

Correct Answer: (D) Languge

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept

The question requires identifying the word that is spelled incorrectly among the given options.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation

Let's examine the spelling of each word:

(A) **Humour**: This is the correct British English spelling. The American English spelling is "humor". Both are considered correct depending on the convention.

(B) **Share**: This is spelled correctly.

(C) **Briefly**: This is spelled correctly.

(D) **Languge**: This is spelled incorrectly. The correct spelling is **Language**. The 'ue' is in the wrong order; it should be 'ua'.

Step 3: Final Answer

The word "Languge" is a misspelling of "Language". Therefore, option (D) is the correct answer.

Quick Tip

To improve spelling, practice the 'look, say, cover, write, check' method. Regularly reading and writing also helps in recognizing correct spellings of common words.

Questions No. 9 – 10

Read the following passage carefully and choose the correct option to answer the questions that follow:

Coorg or Kodagu, the smallest district of Karnataka, is home to evergreen rainforests, spices and coffee plantations. Evergreen rainforests cover thirty percent of this district. During the monsoons, it pours enough to keep many visitors away. The season of joy commences from September and continues till March.

9. In which state of India is Coorg situated?

- (A) Karnataka
- (B) Goa
- (C) Kerala
- (D) Rajasthan

Correct Answer: (A) Karnataka

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question

The question asks for the state where the district of Coorg is located, based on the given passage.

Step 2: Locating the Information in the Passage

We need to scan the passage for the name "Coorg" and the name of a state associated with it. The very first sentence of the passage states: "Coorg or Kodagu, the smallest district of **Karnataka**, is home to evergreen rainforests...".

Step 3: Analyzing the Options

- (A) Karnataka is explicitly mentioned in the passage as the state where Coorg is located.
- (B) Goa is not mentioned.
- (C) Kerala is not mentioned.
- (D) Rajasthan is not mentioned.

Step 4: Final Answer

Based on the direct information from the passage, Coorg is situated in Karnataka.

Quick Tip

For reading comprehension questions, the answer is often found in the first one or two sentences of the passage. Always read the beginning carefully.

10. The best season to visit Coorg is

- (A) April to June
- (B) July to August
- (C) September to March.
- (D) None of the above

Correct Answer: (C) September to March.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question

The question asks to identify the best time or season to visit Coorg according to the passage.

Step 2: Locating the Information in the Passage

We should look for keywords like "season", "visit", "best time", or descriptions of weather and time periods.

The passage mentions that during the monsoons, heavy rain keeps visitors away. This implies the monsoon season is not ideal.

The last sentence states: "The **season of joy commences from September and continues till March.**" This "season of joy" refers to the pleasant tourist season.

Step 3: Analyzing the Options

- (A) April to June is the summer season, not mentioned as the best time.
- (B) July to August corresponds to the monsoon season, which the passage says keeps visitors away.
- (C) September to March perfectly matches the "season of joy" mentioned in the passage.
- (D) Since (C) is a valid option, this is incorrect.

Step 4: Final Answer

The passage clearly indicates that the ideal time to visit, the "season of joy," is from September to March.

Quick Tip

Look for descriptive words like "season of joy" or phrases that indicate positive or negative conditions for an activity like tourism. This often points directly to the answer.

11. What did Lencho hope for?

- (A) A good shower of rain
- (B) Bright sunshine
- (C) A good crop
- (D) Cloudy weather

Correct Answer: (A) A good shower of rain

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question

This question is based on the story "A Letter to God" and asks about the main character Lencho's immediate hope at the beginning of the story.

Step 2: Recalling the Story Details

Lencho was a farmer whose field of ripe corn was ready for harvest. The only thing his crops needed to be perfect was some rain. He spent the morning scanning the sky, hoping for rain clouds.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation

Throughout the beginning of the story, Lencho's singular focus is on the need for water for his fields. He explicitly states that the earth needed "a downpour or at least a shower". While his ultimate goal was a good crop (C), his immediate and specific hope was for rain (A) to achieve that goal. Bright sunshine (B) or just cloudy weather (D) without rain would not have helped his crops.

Step 4: Final Answer

Lencho's most immediate and explicitly stated hope was for a good shower of rain to nourish his cornfield.

Quick Tip

In literature-based questions, distinguish between a character's immediate desire and their ultimate goal. The question often asks for the specific hope mentioned in the context of the story's events.

12. Who was the first black President of South Africa?

- (A) Oliver Tambo
- (B) Yusuf Dadoo
- (C) Nelson Mandela
- (D) Walter Sisulu

Correct Answer: (C) Nelson Mandela

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

This is a factual question asking to identify the first black President of South Africa. This relates to the chapter "Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom".

Step 2: Key Concept

The chapter is an excerpt from the autobiography of Nelson Mandela. It details his struggle against the apartheid regime in South Africa and his inauguration as the first democratically elected black president of the country.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation

Nelson Mandela was a revolutionary leader and the central figure in the fight against apartheid. After spending 27 years in prison, he was released and went on to win the first fully representative democratic election in South Africa in 1994, becoming the nation's first black president. The other individuals listed (Oliver Tambo, Yusuf Dadoo, Walter Sisulu) were also important anti-apartheid activists but did not hold the position of the first black president.

Step 4: Final Answer

Based on historical facts and the context of the literary chapter, Nelson Mandela was the first black President of South Africa.

Quick Tip

For questions related to historical figures in literature, remember the key role they played. The title of the chapter, "Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom", itself points to him being the central figure.

13. The bakers of Goa used to wear :

- (A) Kabai
- (B) Bol
- (C) A long cloak
- (D) All of the above

Correct Answer: (A) Kabai

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question

The question asks about the specific attire worn by bakers in Goa, as described in the chapter "A Baker from Goa" from "Glimpses of India".

Step 2: Recalling the Story Details

The chapter describes the traditions and life of traditional Goan bakers, known as 'paders'. It includes a description of their particular dress.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation

The text explicitly states: "The baker or bread-seller of those days had a peculiar dress known as the **kabai**. It was a single-piece long frock reaching down to the knees."

- (B) "Bol" refers to a type of sweet bread, not clothing.
- (C) "A long cloak" is a general description, but "kabai" is the specific name given in the text.
- (D) Since (B) and (C) are incorrect or less specific, this option is incorrect.

Step 4: Final Answer

The specific name for the dress worn by the bakers of Goa mentioned in the story is the kabai.

Quick Tip

Pay attention to unique or culture-specific terms (like 'pader' or 'kabai') in literary texts. They are often the subject of direct questions.

Questions No. 14 – 15

Read the given extract and choose the correct option to answer the following questions :

Now
He senses first responsibility
In a world of possessions. People will take
Balls, balls will be lost always, little boy.

14. Who is the poet of the poem, 'The Ball Poem'?

- (A) Robert Frost
- (B) W.B. Yeats
- (C) Sylvia Plath
- (D) John Berryman

Correct Answer: (D) John Berryman

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question

This is a factual question that asks to identify the author of 'The Ball Poem'.

Step 2: Recalling Factual Information

The poem 'The Ball Poem', which is about a boy's experience with loss and responsibility, was written by the American poet John Berryman.

Step 3: Analyzing the Options

- (A) Robert Frost wrote poems like 'The Road Not Taken' and 'Dust of Snow'.
- (B) W.B. Yeats is a famous Irish poet.
- (C) Sylvia Plath was an American poet and novelist.
- (D) John Berryman is correctly identified as the poet of 'The Ball Poem'.

Step 4: Final Answer

The author of 'The Ball Poem' is John Berryman.

Quick Tip

It is crucial to remember the names of the poets and authors for the poems and stories in your syllabus, as direct questions like this are common in exams.

15. What does 'In a world of possessions' mean?

- (A) Love
- (B) Material things
- (C) Lust

(D) None of the above

Correct Answer: (B) Material things

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question

The question asks for the interpretation of the phrase 'In a world of possessions' from the given poetic extract.

Step 2: Analyzing the Context

The poem discusses a boy losing his ball. The ball is a 'possession'. The poet generalizes this experience to a life where people own things ('possessions'), and these things can be lost. The phrase thus refers to a world where ownership and material objects are a significant part of life.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation

'Possessions' are things that one owns. Therefore, 'a world of possessions' directly refers to a world full of ownable objects, or material things.

- (A) Love is an emotion, not a possession in this context.
- (B) Material things is the most accurate synonym for 'possessions'.
- (C) Lust is a desire, not a tangible object.
- (D) This is incorrect as (B) is a valid answer.

Step 4: Final Answer

The phrase 'In a world of possessions' signifies a materialistic world, a world of material things.

Quick Tip

When interpreting a phrase from a poem, look at the literal meaning of the words and the overall theme of the poem. Here, 'possession' literally means something owned, which aligns with the theme of loss of material objects.

16. Who was Mr. Herriot?

- (A) A compounder
- (B) A doctor
- (C) A neighbour of Mrs. Pumphrey
- (D) A trainer of dogs

Correct Answer: (B) A doctor

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question

This question asks to identify the profession or role of the character Mr. Herriot, who is the narrator of the story "A Triumph of Surgery".

Step 2: Recalling the Story Details

In the story, Mr. James Herriot is a veterinary surgeon. He is approached by Mrs. Pumphrey about her overweight dog, Tricky. He diagnoses the dog's problem and takes it to his surgery (hospital) for treatment.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation

As a veterinary surgeon, Mr. Herriot is a doctor for animals.

(A) A compounder assists a doctor, which is not his role.

(C) While he might live near Mrs. Pumphrey, his primary role in the story is professional, not as a neighbour.

(D) Although he helps Tricky recover, his profession is a veterinarian, not simply a dog trainer. Therefore, 'A doctor' is the most accurate description of his profession.

Step 4: Final Answer

Mr. Herriot was a veterinary doctor.

Quick Tip

Remember the narrator's role in stories told in the first person. In "A Triumph of Surgery", the narrator's profession as a vet is central to the entire plot.

17. Who does 'I' refer to in the story, 'The Thief's Story'?

(A) Hari Singh

(B) Anil

(C) The writer of the story

(D) The previous employer of the thief

Correct Answer: (A) Hari Singh

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question

The question asks to identify the narrator, represented by the pronoun 'I', in Ruskin Bond's "The Thief's Story".

Step 2: Recalling the Story Details

"The Thief's Story" is narrated from the perspective of a young thief. The narrator introduces himself with a new name, Hari Singh, when he meets Anil. The entire story is about his expe-

rience living with Anil and his internal conflict about whether to rob him.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation

- (A) Hari Singh is the name the thief gives himself and is the narrator of the story.
- (B) Anil is the man whom the narrator attempts to rob. He is referred to as 'he' by the narrator.
- (C) While Ruskin Bond is the writer, the narrator 'I' is a fictional character within the story.
- (D) No previous employer is the narrator.

Step 4: Final Answer

The pronoun 'I' in "The Thief's Story" refers to the narrator and protagonist, the thief Hari Singh.

Quick Tip

In a first-person narrative, the character 'I' is the protagonist telling the story. Distinguish between the real-life author and the fictional narrator.

18. Who came to meet Ausable in the story, 'The Midnight Visitor'?

- (A) Fowler
- (B) A Policeman
- (C) Ausable's father
- (D) Max

Correct Answer: (A) Fowler

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question

The question asks to identify the character who had an appointment or came to visit the secret agent Ausable in the story "The Midnight Visitor".

Step 2: Recalling the Story Details

The story begins with a young, romantic writer named Fowler meeting Ausable. Fowler is disappointed with Ausable's appearance, as he doesn't fit the stereotype of a secret agent. Fowler has come to spend the evening with Ausable to get inspiration for his writing.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation

- (A) Fowler is the writer who came to meet Ausable.
- (B) A policeman (or rather, a waiter pretending to be one as arranged by Ausable) is part of Ausable's clever plan but not the initial visitor.
- (C) Ausable's father is not a character in the story.

(D) Max is the rival secret agent who had already entered Ausable's room with a pistol to intercept a report. He did not 'come to meet' Ausable in a conventional sense; he was an intruder.

Step 4: Final Answer

Fowler was the visitor who came to meet Ausable.

Quick Tip

Carefully read the question. "Came to meet" implies a planned or arranged visit, which describes Fowler's situation, whereas "intruded" would better describe Max's presence.

19. How many burglars are there in the story 'A Question of Trust'?

- (A) Two
- (B) Five
- (C) Three
- (D) Four

Correct Answer: (A) Two

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question

The question asks for the total number of burglars or thieves featured as characters in the story "A Question of Trust".

Step 2: Recalling the Story Details

The protagonist, Horace Danby, is a locksmith who commits one burglary each year. He is the first burglar. When he attempts to rob a safe at Shotover Grange, he is interrupted by a young woman. This woman pretends to be the lady of the house but is actually another thief who tricks Horace into opening the safe for her.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation

The two characters in the story who are thieves (burglars) are:

1. Horace Danby, the protagonist.
2. The young lady in red, the antagonist who outsmarts Horace.

Therefore, there are two burglars in total within the plot of the story.

Step 4: Final Answer

There are two burglars featured in the story: Horace Danby and the lady in red.

Quick Tip

When a question asks "how many," make sure to count all characters that fit the description, even if one is the protagonist and the other is the antagonist.

20. Who comforted Bholi in the classroom?

- (A) Her friend
- (B) Her teacher
- (C) Her Principal
- (D) The monitor of the class

Correct Answer: (B) Her teacher

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question

The question asks to identify the person who provided comfort and encouragement to Bholi when she was in the classroom.

Step 2: Recalling the Story Details

In the story "Bholi", the main character, Sulekha (called Bholi), is timid and lacks confidence due to a childhood injury and pock-marks. On her first day at school, she is scared and unable to speak her name clearly. Her teacher approaches her with kindness and encouragement.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation

The teacher's voice was "soft and soothing". She spoke to Bholi gently, patted her affectionately, and encouraged her by telling her that if she came to school every day, she would learn to speak without stammering and become more learned than anyone else in the village. This kindness and comfort from her teacher was a turning point in Bholi's life. No other character mentioned in the options provided this comfort in the classroom scene.

Step 4: Final Answer

It was Bholi's teacher who comforted her in the classroom with a kind and encouraging attitude.

Quick Tip

Focus on key relationships and turning points in a character's life. Bholi's relationship with her teacher is central to her transformation and the theme of the story.

21. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow :

The modern world is a world of gross materialism. Money is the pivot on which the present

world seems to turn. The Western world, more than the Eastern world, is completely in the clutches of these money-making tendencies. The money thus made is put to a variety of uses — good, bad and indifferent. Even a casual observation of the working of the world reveals the fact that the abuse of money is the rule, and the right use of money, the exception.

Human nature is fundamentally selfish. As such, it is no wonder that money earned is in the majority of cases wrongly used. The right use of money consists in spending it for universal good, for the greatest good of the greatest number, in addition to meeting one's personal and family requirements.

21(a). What place does money occupy in the modern world, according to the writer?

Correct Answer: According to the writer, money is the central point or pivot on which the modern world turns.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question

The question asks to identify the role or importance of money in the modern world as described in the passage.

Step 2: Locating the Information in the Passage

We need to scan the passage for statements that describe the position of money.

The second sentence of the first paragraph explicitly states: "**Money is the pivot on which the present world seems to turn.**"

Step 3: Formulating the Answer

A "pivot" is a central point on which something turns or depends.

Therefore, the writer believes that money is the most crucial element in the modern world, and everything revolves around it.

Step 4: Final Answer

The writer states that money occupies a central and pivotal place in the modern world, acting as the axis around which everything else revolves.

Quick Tip

When a question asks "according to the writer," make sure your answer is based solely on the information provided in the passage, not on your own general knowledge or opinions.

21(b). How is money generally used by people everywhere?

Correct Answer: According to the writer, money is generally abused or used wrongly.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question

The question asks about the common or typical use of money by people, as per the author's view in the passage.

Step 2: Locating the Information in the Passage

We need to look for sentences that describe how money is commonly used.

The end of the first paragraph states: **"...the abuse of money is the rule, and the right use of money, the exception."**

The second paragraph reinforces this idea: **"...money earned is in the majority of cases wrongly used."**

Step 3: Synthesizing the Information

Both statements indicate that the writer believes the general tendency is to misuse or abuse money. Rightful use is described as rare ("the exception"). This is attributed to human nature being "fundamentally selfish".

Step 4: Final Answer

The writer states that money is generally used wrongly or abused by people everywhere, and its correct use is an exception to the rule.

Quick Tip

Look for words that indicate frequency or generality, such as "rule," "exception," "majority," or "generally," to find the answer to questions about common practices.

21(c). What is the right use of money, according to the writer?

Correct Answer: According to the writer, the right use of money is to spend it for the universal good and the welfare of the maximum number of people, after meeting one's own personal and family needs.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question

The question asks for the writer's definition of the correct or proper way to use money.

Step 2: Locating the Information in the Passage

The last sentence of the passage provides a direct definition.

It states: **"The right use of money consists in spending it for universal good, for the greatest good of the greatest number, in addition to meeting one's personal and family requirements."**

Step 3: Breaking Down the Definition

The writer's idea of the "right use" has two parts:

1. First, meet the essential needs of oneself and one's family.
2. Beyond that, spend it for the benefit of everyone ("universal good") and for the welfare of the largest possible group of people ("the greatest good of the greatest number").

Step 4: Final Answer

The right use of money, as defined by the writer, involves first fulfilling personal and family needs and then using the remainder for the collective benefit of society.

Quick Tip

Direct definition questions are often answered in a single, comprehensive sentence in the passage. Locate the key term from the question (e.g., "right use of money") in the text to find the definition.

21(d). Which word in the passage means 'needs'?

Correct Answer: The word is 'requirements'.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question

The question asks to find a synonym for the word 'needs' within the provided text.

Step 2: Scanning the Passage for Synonyms

We need to read through the passage and look for a word that has a similar meaning to 'needs', which refers to things that are essential or required.

The last sentence of the passage says: "...in addition to meeting one's personal and family requirements."

Step 3: Confirming the Meaning

The word "requirements" in this context refers to the essential things that a person and their family need to live. This is a direct synonym for 'needs'.

Step 4: Final Answer

The word in the passage that means 'needs' is "requirements".

Quick Tip

For vocabulary questions, read the sentence where the potential synonym is found. The context will help you confirm if its meaning matches the word given in the question.

22. Write an application to the Principal of your college requesting him to give you full fee concession on grounds of poverty and merit.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Task

The task is to write a formal application to a college Principal. The purpose is to request a "full fee concession" (a waiver of fees). The reasons to be cited are "poverty" (financial hardship) and "merit" (good academic performance).

Step 2: Key Components of a Formal Application

A formal application should include the following parts in order:

1. Sender's Address (optional, or can be placed at the end)
2. Date
3. The Receiver's Designation and Address (The Principal, College Name, City)
4. Subject Line (A clear and concise summary of the letter's purpose)
5. Salutation (e.g., "Respected Sir/Madam,")
6. Body of the Letter (Introduction, explanation of the situation, the request)
7. Complimentary Closing (e.g., "Yours obediently,")
8. Your Name, Class, and Roll Number.

Step 3: Model Application

To,
The Principal,
[Your College Name],
[City Name], [Pin Code].

Date: 16 October 2025

Subject: Application for Full Fee Concession.

Respected Sir/Madam,

With due respect, I, [Your Name], a student of Class [Your Class and Section], wish to state that I am unable to pay the school fees for the upcoming academic session due to my family's poor financial condition.

My father is the sole earner in our family of five, and his meagre income is barely enough to meet our basic needs. It has become very difficult for him to afford my educational expenses.

I have always been a diligent and meritorious student. I secured 92% marks in my last annual examination and have consistently maintained a good academic record. I am very keen to continue my studies and build a better future. A copy of my previous year's report card is attached for your reference.

Therefore, I kindly request you to grant me a full fee concession for this academic year. I assure you that I will continue to work hard and bring credit to our college.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours obediently,

[Your Name]

Class: [Your Class]

Roll No.: [Your Roll Number]

Quick Tip

In a formal application, maintain a polite and respectful tone. State your reasons clearly and concisely. Supporting your claims with evidence (like mentioning your academic scores) makes your request stronger.

22. OR

Write a letter to your friend telling him how your village or city has changed during the past few years.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Task

The task is to write an informal letter to a friend. The main content of the letter should describe the changes that have taken place in your village or city over the last few years.

Step 2: Key Components of an Informal Letter

An informal letter typically includes:

1. Sender's Address
2. Date
3. Salutation (e.g., "Dear [Friend's Name],")
4. Body of the Letter (Opening pleasantries, main content, closing remarks)
5. Complimentary Closing (e.g., "Yours lovingly,")
6. Your First Name.

Step 3: Model Letter

15, Vikaspuri,
[Your Village/City Name],
[State].

Date: 16 October 2025

My dear [Friend's Name],

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. It has been a while since we last spoke, and I was just thinking of you and our old days here in [Your Village/City Name]. You won't believe how much this place has changed in the last few years.

I remember how we used to cycle down the narrow, muddy lane that led to the old banyan tree. Well, that lane is now a wide, paved road with streetlights! The biggest change is the new multi-speciality hospital that has come up near the old marketplace. It has made healthcare so much more accessible for everyone. Many new shops and a small shopping complex have also opened up, so we don't have to travel to the main city for everything anymore.

While all this development is great, I do miss the old quiet and calm. The open fields where we used to play cricket are now being converted into residential plots. The pace of life has become much faster. Still, it is exciting to see our little village growing and developing.

You must visit soon to see all these changes for yourself. We'll have a lot to catch up on. Give my regards to your parents.

Yours lovingly,
[Your First Name]

Quick Tip

When writing an informal letter, use a friendly and conversational tone. Share personal feelings and anecdotes related to the topic (e.g., "I remember how we used to...") to make the letter more engaging and heartfelt.

23. Write a paragraph on the reception of a bride attended by you in about 80 - 100 words, on the basis of the points given below :

- (a) Date and time
- (b) Decoration of pandal
- (c) Snacks and tea
- (d) Coming of the bride on the stage
- (e) Photography and blessings showered on the newly-weds

(f) Dinner

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question requires writing a descriptive paragraph of 80-100 words about a bride's reception. The paragraph must be structured chronologically, following the six specific points provided.

Step 2: Structuring the Paragraph:

To create a coherent and logical narrative, the paragraph should address each point in the given order.

- Begin with the setting: **(a) Date and time.**
- Describe the ambiance: **(b) Decoration of pandal.**
- Mention the initial hospitality: **(c) Snacks and tea.**
- Detail the main event: **(d) Coming of the bride on the stage.**
- Describe the guest interaction: **(e) Photography and blessings.**
- Conclude with the final activity: **(f) Dinner.**

Step 3: Composing the Paragraph (Model Response):

On the evening of October 15th, I attended a magnificent wedding reception. The venue's pandal was exquisitely decorated with vibrant flowers and dazzling fairy lights, creating a magical atmosphere. As guests arrived, they were warmly welcomed with a variety of snacks and hot tea. The most awaited moment was the grand entrance of the bride onto the beautifully lit stage, looking absolutely stunning. This was followed by a session of photography, where friends and family gathered to shower the newly-weds with their heartfelt blessings and good wishes. The celebration concluded with a sumptuous dinner, featuring a wide array of delicious dishes.

Quick Tip

For descriptive writing tasks, use vivid adjectives and sensory details (sight, sound, taste) to make your description more engaging. Following the given points in sequence ensures your paragraph is well-structured and covers all required aspects. Always do a quick word count after writing to ensure you are within the specified limit.

23(OR). Write an article in about 80 - 100 words on the importance of good manners and courteous behaviour in life, on the basis of the points given below :

- (a) A few examples of good manners
- (b) How does courtesy affect our day-to-day life ?

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The task is to write a short article (80-100 words) on the importance of good manners and courtesy. The article's content should be guided by the two provided points: giving examples of good manners and explaining the effect of courtesy on daily life.

Step 2: Structuring the Article:

A well-structured article would include:

- **A Title:** To announce the topic.
- **An Introduction:** A strong opening statement about the importance of manners.
- **Body Paragraph:** Address point (a) by giving examples, then transition to point (b) by explaining their impact.
- **Conclusion:** A concluding sentence to summarize the main idea.

Step 3: Composing the Article (Model Response):

The Importance of Good Manners

Good manners and courteous behaviour are the essential threads that hold the fabric of society together. Simple acts such as saying 'please' and 'thank you', respecting elders, and listening patiently when someone is speaking are prime examples of good manners. The impact of such courtesy on our day-to-day life is profound. It fosters positive relationships, reduces conflicts, and creates an atmosphere of mutual respect. Practising courtesy not only makes social interactions smoother but also reflects one's character and upbringing, making life more pleasant and harmonious for everyone.

Quick Tip

When writing an article, always give it a suitable title. Start with a compelling introduction to grab the reader's attention. Use the given points to build the body of your article. End with a strong conclusion that summarizes your main idea. Ensure your language is clear, concise, and persuasive.

24(a). Rewrite the following sentence by changing it into Indirect Speech :
"Is this the way to the new Parliament Building ?" a motorist asked the policeman.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The task is to convert a direct question (reported speech) into indirect (reported) speech. The original sentence is an interrogative sentence.

Step 2: Key Concepts for Conversion:

When converting an interrogative sentence from direct to indirect speech, we follow these rules:

- The reporting verb 'asked' is used.
- The question is converted into a statement.
- The conjunction 'if' or 'whether' is used to introduce the reported clause.
- The tense of the verb in the reported speech changes (Present Tense → Past Tense). Here, 'is' will become 'was'.
- Words denoting nearness are changed to words denoting distance. Here, 'this' will become 'that'.

Step 3: Applying the Rules:

Applying the rules to the given sentence:

- **Direct Speech:** "Is this the way to the new Parliament Building ?" a motorist asked the policeman.
- The reporting part is "a motorist asked the policeman".
- We introduce 'if'.
- We change 'this is' to 'that was' and rearrange it into a statement form.
- **Indirect Speech:** A motorist asked the policeman if that was the way to the new Parliament Building.

Quick Tip

In indirect speech for questions, remember to change the question mark (?) to a full stop (.). The word order must be subject + verb (e.g., 'if that was...'), not verb + subject (e.g., 'if was that...').

24(b). Change the following sentence into Passive Voice :
I know him well.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The task is to change the given sentence from Active Voice to Passive Voice. The sentence is in the Simple Present Tense.

Step 2: Key Concepts for Conversion:

The rules for changing from Active to Passive Voice are:

- The object of the active sentence ('him') becomes the subject of the passive sentence ('He').
- The subject of the active sentence ('I') becomes the object of the passive sentence ('me').
- The main verb is changed to its past participle form (V3). Here, 'know' becomes 'known'.
- An appropriate auxiliary verb is used before the main verb. For Simple Present Tense, 'is/am/are' is used. With 'He', we use 'is'.
- The preposition 'by' is typically used before the new object. However, the verb 'know' is an exception and takes the preposition 'to'.

Step 3: Applying the Rules:

- **Active Voice:** I know him well.
- **Subject:** I, **Verb:** know, **Object:** him.
- The new subject is 'He'.
- The verb form becomes 'is known'.

- The new object is 'to me'.
- The adverb 'well' is placed appropriately.
- **Passive Voice:** He is well known to me.

Quick Tip

Remember that some verbs are followed by fixed prepositions other than 'by' in the passive voice. For example, 'known to', 'surprised at', 'pleased with', 'contained in'.

24(c). Punctuate the following using capital letters also wherever necessary :
he said will you help me or shall i ask someone else

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The task is to add the necessary punctuation marks and capital letters to the given sentence to make it grammatically correct. The sentence contains direct speech.

Step 2: Key Concepts for Punctuation:

- The first letter of a sentence must be capitalized.
- The pronoun 'I' is always capitalized.
- A comma (,) is used to separate the reporting clause from the reported speech.
- The reported speech (the exact words spoken) is enclosed in quotation marks ("...").
- The first word of the reported speech starts with a capital letter.
- A question mark (?) is used at the end of an interrogative sentence.

Step 3: Applying the Rules:

Let's apply the rules to "he said will you help me or shall i ask someone else":

- Capitalize the first word 'he' to 'He'.
- Place a comma after the reporting verb 'said'.
- Add opening quotation marks before 'will'.
- Capitalize 'will' to 'Will' as it starts the direct speech.
- Capitalize the pronoun 'i' to 'I'.
- The reported speech is a question, so add a question mark (?) at the end, before the closing quotation marks.
- Add closing quotation marks after the question mark.
- The corrected sentence is: **He said, "Will you help me, or shall I ask someone else?"**

Quick Tip

When punctuating direct speech, remember the sequence: Comma, Opening Quotation Mark, Capital Letter, Sentence Content, End Punctuation (like ?, !, .), Closing Quotation Mark.

24(d). Translate the following into English :

मुझे मेरा गाँव बहुत पसन्द है। यहाँ के लोगों में बड़ा अपनापन है। मेरे गाँव में कारखाने नहीं हैं इसलिए यहाँ प्रदूषण भी नहीं है। मुझे अपने गाँव का मन्दिर, फलों के बगीचे एवं हरे-भरे खेत बहुत याद आते हैं।

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The task is to translate a given passage from Hindi to English, ensuring the meaning and tone are preserved.

Step 2: Sentence-by-Sentence Translation:

Translation: I like my village very much.

Translation: The people here have a great sense of belonging / community.

Translation: There are no factories in my village, therefore there is no pollution here either.

Translation: I very much miss my village's temple, fruit orchards, and lush green fields.

Step 3: Combining into a Coherent Paragraph:

I like my village very much. There is a great sense of community among the people here. There are no factories in my village, so there is no pollution. I dearly miss the temple, fruit orchards, and the lush green fields of my village.

Quick Tip

When translating, focus on conveying the meaning rather than doing a literal word-for-word translation. For example, translates better to 'sense of community' or 'togetherness' than a more literal equivalent.

25(a). What quality of Lencho impressed the postmaster ? How did he decide to help him?

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks about the specific quality of Lencho that impressed the postmaster and what action the postmaster took as a result, based on the story "A Letter to God".

Step 2: Identifying the Quality and Action:

- **Lencho's Quality:** The postmaster was deeply impressed by Lencho's unwavering and absolute faith in God. He was astonished that someone could have such strong belief, enough to write a letter to God for help.
- **Postmaster's Decision:** Moved by this faith, the postmaster decided he could not let it be broken. To sustain Lencho's belief, he resolved to answer the letter and send money on behalf of God. He collected money from his employees and also contributed a part of his own salary.

Step 3: Composing the Answer:

The postmaster was profoundly impressed by Lencho's unshakable faith in God. He wished he had such faith himself. To prevent Lencho's faith from being shaken, he decided to help by answering the letter. He collected money from his colleagues and gave a part of his salary, sending it to Lencho in an envelope signed "God".

Quick Tip

When answering literature questions, always link the character's actions or feelings to specific events in the story. Mentioning both the quality (faith) and the postmaster's reaction (collecting money) is crucial for a complete answer.

25(a) OR. What did Rajvir see during his car journey to Dhekiabari?

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for a description of the scenery and activities Rajvir observed during his journey to the Dhekiabari tea estate, as detailed in the chapter "Tea from Assam".

Step 2: Recalling the Details from the Text:

The text describes a significant change in scenery as Rajvir and Pranjol neared the tea estate. Key observations include:

- The paddy fields gave way to vast stretches of tea bushes.
- The tea bushes were all neatly pruned to the same height.
- Among the rows of bushes, there were tall, sturdy shade-trees.
- He saw groups of tea-pluckers, wearing plastic aprons and carrying bamboo baskets on their backs, who were plucking the newly sprouted tea leaves.

Step 3: Composing the Answer:

During his car journey to Dhekiabari, Rajvir saw a magnificent view. The landscape was dominated by vast stretches of tea bushes as far as the eye could see. Against the backdrop of densely wooded hills, these tea gardens looked like a sea of green. He also saw groups of tea-pluckers with bamboo baskets on their backs, plucking the fresh tea leaves.

Quick Tip

Use descriptive words from the text (e.g., 'magnificent view', 'sea of tea bushes') to make your answer more vivid and accurate. This shows a good understanding of the chapter.

25(b). What is a seagull ? What is the lesson 'His First Flight' about?

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question has two parts. First, it asks for the definition of a seagull. Second, it asks for the central theme or moral of the story 'His First Flight'.

Step 2: Defining a Seagull and Identifying the Lesson:

- **What is a seagull?:** A seagull is a seabird, typically with long wings, a strong beak, and feathers that are usually white and grey. They are commonly found near coasts.
- **What is the lesson about?:** The story 'His First Flight' is about overcoming fear through courage and self-belief. It illustrates that fear is a significant barrier to learning and growth, and sometimes a push or a moment of desperation is needed to take the first step. It also highlights the role of family in providing motivation.

Step 3: Composing the Answer:

A seagull is a bird that lives near the sea, having long wings and typically white and grey feathers. The lesson 'His First Flight' is about a young seagull's fear of flying. The story's central theme is the importance of overcoming fear and gaining self-confidence. It teaches that courage is essential to achieve anything significant in life.

Quick Tip

When a question has two parts, make sure to answer both clearly. Start with the definition and then move to the theme of the lesson to structure your answer logically.

25(b) OR. What prompted Anne Frank to keep a diary? What name did she give to it ?

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

This is a two-part question based on "From the Diary of Anne Frank". It asks for the reason Anne started writing a diary and the name she chose for it.

Step 2: Recalling the Details from the Text:

- **Reason for keeping a diary:** Anne Frank felt she had no true friends with whom she could confide her deepest thoughts and feelings. Although she had many acquaintances, she felt lonely. She believed that "paper has more patience than people" and decided a

diary could serve as her confidante.

- **Name of the diary:** She personified her diary by giving it a name to make it feel more like a real friend. She named it 'Kitty'.

Step 3: Composing the Answer:

Anne Frank was prompted to keep a diary because she felt lonely and believed she had no true friends to confide in. She wanted a friend with whom she could share her secrets and innermost feelings. She found this friend in her diary, which she named 'Kitty'.

Quick Tip

For character-based questions, focus on their motivations and feelings. Mentioning Anne's loneliness and her view that "paper has more patience" provides a deeper insight and strengthens your answer.

26(a). Describe Nelson Mandela.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for a character description of Nelson Mandela based on the chapter "Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom". The answer should be about 60 words.

Step 2: Identifying Key Character Traits and Achievements:

- **Role:** South African anti-apartheid revolutionary and the first black president of South Africa.
- **Qualities:** A great patriot, visionary, courageous, resilient, and forgiving.
- **Struggle:** He fought against the apartheid system, a policy of racial segregation, for which he spent nearly 30 years in prison.
- **Beliefs:** He believed in freedom, equality, and human dignity for all people, irrespective of their race or colour. His goal was to create a democratic and just society.

Step 3: Composing the Description:

Nelson Mandela was a towering figure in the fight against apartheid in South Africa. As the country's first black president, he was a symbol of courage, resilience, and reconciliation. A true

patriot, he sacrificed his freedom and spent three decades in prison for the ideal of a democratic and non-racial society. He believed that freedom was indivisible and fought for the dignity and equality of all his people.

Quick Tip

When describing a historical figure, include their major role, key struggles, core beliefs, and significant achievements. Using powerful adjectives like 'towering', 'courageous', and 'resilient' will make your description more impactful.

26(b). What is the point of controversy between Natalya and Lomov?

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks to identify the main topic of the arguments or controversies between the characters Natalya and Lomov in the play "The Proposal".

Step 2: Identifying the Points of Conflict:

There are two major points of controversy in the play:

- **First Controversy: Ownership of Oxen Meadows.** Lomov, while trying to propose, mentions that his Oxen Meadows touch Natalya's family's Birchwoods. Natalya immediately disputes this, claiming the Meadows belong to her family. This escalates into a heated argument over the land's ownership history.
- **Second Controversy: Superiority of their Dogs.** After the first argument, another one erupts over whose dog is better. Lomov praises his dog, Guess, while Natalya fiercely defends her dog, Squeezer, leading to another round of insults and conflict.

Step 3: Composing the Answer:

The primary point of controversy between Natalya and Lomov is the ownership of a piece of land called Oxen Meadows. Lomov claims it belongs to his family, while Natalya insists it has been in her family's possession for generations. This petty argument escalates quickly, derailing Lomov's marriage proposal. A second controversy arises later over the superiority of their respective dogs, Guess and Squeezer.

Quick Tip

To provide a comprehensive answer, it is best to mention both major arguments. This shows a complete understanding of the conflicts that drive the play's comedic plot.

27. What kind of a girl is Amanda ? What kind of life does she want to live?

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for a character analysis of Amanda and a description of the life she desires, based on the poem "Amanda!".

Step 2: Analyzing Amanda's Character and Desires:

- **Amanda's Character:** Amanda is a young, imaginative girl who feels her freedom is curtailed by constant nagging and instructions from her parent. She is a daydreamer who escapes into a world of fantasy to find peace and freedom from the restrictive reality she lives in. She appears moody and introverted to her parent, but in reality, she is craving independence.
- **The Life She Wants:** Amanda yearns for a life of freedom, tranquility, and autonomy. This is evident in her fantasies: she wants to be a mermaid drifting blissfully in the sea, an orphan roaming freely in the dusty streets, and Rapunzel living a peaceful life in a high tower, undisturbed by anyone.

Step 3: Composing the Answer:

Amanda is a young, creative girl who feels constantly controlled and nagged by her parent. She escapes her reality by retreating into a world of fantasy.

She wants to live a life of complete freedom and peace, away from constant instructions. She wishes to be a carefree mermaid in a green sea, a free-roaming orphan, or Rapunzel in a tranquil tower where she would not be disturbed by anyone.

Quick Tip

When analyzing a character from a poem, connect their personality to their specific thoughts or actions. For Amanda, linking her imaginative nature to her specific day-dreams (mermaid, orphan, Rapunzel) is key to a good answer.

27(OR). Write four lines of any poem prescribed in your syllabus. (Do not copy the lines given in the question paper.)

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The task is to recall and write four consecutive lines from any poem that is part of the prescribed syllabus. The instruction specifically forbids using any lines that might already be quoted elsewhere in the question paper.

Step 2: Choosing a Poem and Lines:

A simple and commonly prescribed poem is "Dust of Snow" by Robert Frost. It is short and easy to remember. The first stanza is a good choice.

Poem: Dust of Snow

Author: Robert Frost

Lines:

The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree.

Step 3: Presenting the Answer:

Here are four lines from the poem "Dust of Snow" by Robert Frost:

The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree.

Quick Tip

For this type of question, it is wise to memorize a few short poems or specific stanzas from your syllabus beforehand. Choose a simple one to avoid errors in transcription. Always mention the poem's title and author if you can, as it adds value to your answer.

28(a). Write the central idea of the following poem in about 40 words :
Fire and Ice

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the central theme or main message of Robert Frost's poem "Fire and Ice" in approximately 40 words.

Step 2: Identifying the Central Idea:

The poem explores the destructive potential of human emotions. The poet equates 'fire' with intense desire, passion, and greed, and 'ice' with hatred, coldness, and indifference. He concludes that both these extremes are powerful enough to bring about the end of the world.

Step 3: Composing the Answer (Model Response):

The central idea of "Fire and Ice" is that destructive human emotions can lead to the world's end. The poet suggests that desire, symbolized by 'fire', and hatred, symbolized by 'ice', are both equally powerful forces of destruction, capable of annihilating humanity and the world.

Quick Tip

When asked for a central idea, focus on the symbolic meaning of the key elements in the poem. Here, explaining what 'fire' and 'ice' represent is crucial to conveying the poem's core message about human emotions.

28(b). Write the central idea of the following poem in about 40 words :
The Ball Poem

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

The question requires summarizing the main theme or central idea of John Berryman's "The Ball Poem" within a 40-word limit.

Step 2: Identifying the Central Idea:

The poem is about the nature of loss and the process of growing up. The boy's loss of his ball is his first experience with grief and the harsh reality that some things, once lost, cannot be recovered. The poem's message is about learning to accept loss and take responsibility in a world of material possessions.

Step 3: Composing the Answer (Model Response):

The central idea of "The Ball Poem" is the painful but necessary experience of understanding loss and taking responsibility. The lost ball symbolizes the loss of innocence and cherished possessions. The boy learns the hard lesson that loss is a part of life and one must learn to cope with it.

Quick Tip

Focus on the deeper, metaphorical meaning. The poem is less about the literal loss of a toy and more about the universal human experience of loss and the emotional growth that follows.

28(c). Write the central idea of the following poem in about 40 words :
The Tale of Custard the Dragon

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the central idea or main message of the poem "The Tale of Custard the Dragon" by Ogden Nash, in about 40 words.

Step 2: Identifying the Central Idea:

The poem challenges the conventional understanding of bravery. It suggests that true courage is not about boasting or showing off, but about rising to the occasion when faced with real danger. The outwardly timid dragon, Custard, proves to be the bravest of all, while the boastful characters are revealed to be cowards.

Step 3: Composing the Answer (Model Response):

The central idea of the poem is that appearances can be deceptive and true courage is proven through actions, not words. The poem satirizes false bravado by showing that the supposedly timid dragon, Custard, is the only one who acts bravely in a crisis, unlike the other boastful pets.

Quick Tip

The key to this poem's theme is the contrast between appearance and reality. Highlight how Custard's actions contradict his timid reputation, while the other characters' actions contradict their brave claims.

29(a). Why did Hari Singh return to Anil?

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the reasons that motivated Hari Singh to go back to Anil after he had stolen his money and run away.

Step 2: Recalling the Details from the Story:

Hari Singh's decision to return was driven by several factors:

- **Guilt and Conscience:** He felt guilty for robbing a man like Anil who was so trusting and kind.
- **Value of Education:** He realized that the stolen money would soon be spent, but the ability to read and write, which Anil was teaching him, would allow him to earn a respectable living for his entire life.
- **Loss of Trust:** He did not want to betray the trust Anil had placed in him.

Step 3: Composing the Answer (Model Response):

Hari Singh returned to Anil because his conscience pricked him for robbing a trusting person. More importantly, he realized that education was far more valuable than the stolen money. He knew that by learning to read and write from Anil, he could become a respected man, which was a better future.

Quick Tip

Focus on Hari Singh's internal conflict and transformation. The desire for education and a better life is the strongest motivator for his return, even more than his guilt.

29(b). Why did Bholi refuse to marry Bishamber?

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for the specific reason why Bholi made the decision to refuse to marry Bishamber at the wedding ceremony.

Step 2: Recalling the Details from the Story:

The refusal was triggered by Bishamber's actions at the wedding.

- **Greed:** When Bishamber saw Bholi's pockmarked face, he demanded a dowry of five thousand rupees from her father.
- **Disrespect and Humiliation:** This demand was a great act of disrespect towards Bholi and it deeply humiliated her father, Ramlal, who begged and placed his turban at Bishamber's feet.
- **Bholi's Self-Respect:** Witnessing this, Bholi's education and newfound confidence empowered her to stand up for her dignity and refuse to marry such a mean and greedy man.

Step 3: Composing the Answer (Model Response):

Bholi refused to marry Bishamber because he was a greedy and disrespectful man. He demanded a dowry of five thousand rupees upon seeing her pock-marked face, humiliating her father. This greedy and mean behaviour prompted Bholi to exercise her self-respect and courageously refuse the marriage.

Quick Tip

This moment is the climax of Bholi's transformation. Emphasize that it was Bishamber's greed and the public humiliation of her father that gave her the final push to assert her independence.

30(a). How is Horace Danby cheated by the lady in the story 'A Question of Trust'?

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question asks for a description of the methods used by the young lady to deceive and cheat Horace Danby during the robbery.

Step 2: Detailing the Deception:

The lady, who was also a thief, masterfully outwitted Horace.

- **Posing as the Owner:** She appeared confident and dressed elegantly, convincingly pretending to be the mistress of the house.
- **Gaining Trust:** She created a plausible story about having forgotten the combination to the safe and needing to get her jewels for a party.
- **Manipulation:** She charmed Horace and played on his perceived 'honour', making him believe he was helping the lady of the house. She persuaded him to open the safe for her.
- **The Final Trick:** Crucially, she ensured he opened the safe without his gloves, leaving his fingerprints all over it. She then took the jewels and left, leaving Horace to be framed for the theft.

Step 3: Composing the Answer (Model Response):

Horace Danby is cleverly cheated by a young lady who is also a thief. She confidently poses as the lady of the house, complaining that she has forgotten the safe's combination. Winning his trust with her charm and convincing story, she persuades Horace to open the safe for her. He foolishly does so without his gloves, leaving his fingerprints behind. She then escapes with the jewels, leaving him as the sole suspect for the police to arrest.

Quick Tip

When explaining how a character was cheated, describe the sequence of manipulative actions. The key elements here are the lady's convincing impersonation and her clever trick of making Horace leave his fingerprints.

30(b). Describe the life of Matilda Loisel before and after she lost the necklace.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question:

The question requires a comparative description of Matilda Loisel's life, contrasting her situation and character before the necklace incident with her life afterwards.

Step 2: Contrasting the Two Phases of Life:

- **Life Before Losing the Necklace:** Matilda lived a comfortable, though simple, middle-class life. She had a home and a servant. However, she was perpetually unhappy, dissatisfied, and resentful of her modest status. She constantly daydreamed of a life filled with luxury, riches, and social admiration.
- **Life After Losing the Necklace:** Her life descended into grim poverty. To repay the massive debt incurred to replace the necklace, she and her husband dismissed their servant, moved to a cheap attic room, and she had to perform all the heavy household chores herself. She became a hard, crude, and aged woman, losing her beauty and charm completely.

Step 3: Composing the Answer (Model Response):

Before losing the necklace, Matilda Loisel lived a reasonably comfortable middle-class life but was filled with discontent, always dreaming of wealth and glamour. After losing the necklace, her life changed drastically into one of extreme poverty and hardship. For ten years, she had to endure back-breaking work, dismiss her maid, live in a garret, and haggle for every penny. This ordeal erased her youth and beauty, turning her into a hard, coarse woman.

Quick Tip

Use strong contrasting words (e.g., 'comfortable' vs. 'poverty', 'unhappy' vs. 'hardship', 'charming' vs. 'coarse') to effectively highlight the dramatic change in Matilda's life and character. Structuring the answer into a clear 'before' and 'after' comparison is key.