

UP Board Class 10 English Code 817 HN 2024 Question Paper with Solutions

Time Allowed :3 Hours	Maximum Marks :70	Total questions :35
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General Instructions

Instruction:

- i) *All* questions are compulsory. Marks allotted to each question are given in the margin.
- ii) In numerical questions, give all the steps of calculation.
- iii) Give relevant answers to the questions.
- iv) Give chemical equations, wherever necessary.

Q1. Read the following passage carefully and choose the correct option to answer the question that follows:

The Ganga especially is river of India, beloved of her people, round which are intertwined her racial memories, her hopes and fears, her songs of triumph, her victories and her defeats. She has been a symbol of India's age-long culture and civilization, everchanging, every-flowing and yet ever the same Ganga.

She reminds me of the snow-covered peaks and the deep valleys of the Himalayas, which I have loved so much and of the rich and vast plains below, where my life and work have been cast.

1. The Ganga is a symbol of

- (A) India's rich green growth
- (B) India's rich minerals
- (C) India's age-long culture and civilization
- (D) India's bright future

Correct Answer: (C) India's age-long culture and civilization

Solution:

Step 1: Passage ko dhyān se padho.

Author seedha likhta hai: "She has been a symbol of India's age-long culture and civilization." Yeh line directly batāti hai ki Ganga kis chīz ki pratik hai.

Step 2: Options ka elimination.

- (A) "rich green growth" passage me kahin mention nahin—eliminate.
- (B) "rich minerals" bhi text me nahin—eliminate.
- (C) "age-long culture and civilization" passage ki exact wording hai—select.
- (D) "bright future" ka zikr nahin—eliminate.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Isliye sahi uttar (C) hai kyunki yeh passage ki exact statement ko match karta hai.

Quick Tip

Reading Comprehension me jab “symbol of” jaisi phrase aaye, to passage me exact ya near-exact wording dhoondo—yeh direct answer deta hai.

2. What are the things loved by the author mentioned in the given passage?

- (A) The snow-covered peaks and the deep valleys of the Himalayas
- (B) The rich fields and forests
- (C) The flowing river and streams
- (D) The snowy peaks and the deep valleys of the Himalayas as well as the rich and vast plains below

Correct Answer: (D) The snowy peaks and the deep valleys of the Himalayas as well as the rich and vast plains below

Solution:

Step 1: Refer to the passage.

The author says he loved the snow-covered peaks, the deep valleys of the Himalayas, and also mentions the rich and vast plains below.

Step 2: Analyze the options.

- (A) Mentions only peaks and valleys, missing plains.
- (B) Fields and forests are not mentioned.
- (C) Flowing river and streams are not directly referred to.
- (D) Correct – includes both snowy peaks, valleys, and plains, exactly as mentioned.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (D).

Quick Tip

When multiple elements are listed in the passage, choose the option that covers all of them together.

3. Which word in the passage is opposite of 'victory'?

- (A) defeat
- (B) triumph
- (C) overcome
- (D) ruin

Correct Answer: (A) defeat

Solution:

Step 1: Recall the passage.

The passage mentions "her victories and her defeats," showing both sides of experience.

Step 2: Analyzing opposites.

Victory Defeat (direct antonyms).

Triumph = synonym of victory, not opposite.

Overcome means to succeed, not the opposite of victory.

Ruin indicates destruction but not the direct antonym of victory.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Thus, the opposite of 'victory' is (A) defeat.

Quick Tip

Always identify antonyms by looking for the exact word-pair given in the passage. Here, the passage itself paired "victories and defeats."

4. The bell before they reached.

- (A) rings
- (B) had rung
- (C) rang
- (D) will ring

Correct Answer: (B) had rung

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding tense usage.

The sentence describes an action that was already completed before another action ("they reached"). For such cases, we use the Past Perfect tense.

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

- (A) rings – Simple Present, incorrect for past context.
- (B) had rung – Correct, as it denotes an action completed before another past event.
- (C) rang – Simple Past, does not convey the "before another past action" meaning.
- (D) will ring – Future tense, incorrect.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (B) had rung.

Quick Tip

For actions completed before another past action, always use Past Perfect tense ("had + past participle").

5. He slept a green tree.

- (A) under
- (B) about
- (C) in
- (D) within

Correct Answer: (A) under

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the context.

The sentence indicates the place where he slept. The natural preposition used is "under a tree."

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

- (A) under – Correct, "under a tree" is the standard usage.
- (B) about – Incorrect, does not indicate position.
- (C) in – Not suitable, as one does not sleep "in" a tree in this context.

(D) within – Incorrect, unnatural usage here.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (A) under.

Quick Tip

Prepositions should always be chosen based on standard collocations, e.g., "under a tree."

6. Rearrange the following word clusters to make a meaningful sentence and choose the right arrangement:

loves / my / to / share / toys / brother / his

- (A) My toys loves to share his brother
- (B) Brother loves his toys to my share
- (C) My brother loves to share his toys
- (D) To share my brother his toys loves

Correct Answer: (C) My brother loves to share his toys

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the subject.

Among the given words, "My brother" forms the subject.

Step 2: Arrange the predicate.

The verb phrase is "loves to share his toys." Combining with the subject: "My brother loves to share his toys."

Step 3: Analyze the options.

- (A) Grammatically incorrect.
- (B) Incorrect arrangement and meaningless.
- (C) Correct arrangement, meaningful sentence.
- (D) Incorrect order, not grammatically valid.

Step 4: Conclusion.

The correct sentence is: "My brother loves to share his toys."

Quick Tip

When rearranging jumbled words, first identify the subject, then the verb, and finally the object/complement to form a meaningful sentence.

7. Which of the following words is mis-spelled?

- (A) Accept
- (B) Except
- (C) Expanct
- (D) Aspect

Correct Answer: (C) Expanct

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the words.

The given words are "Accept," "Except," "Expanct," and "Aspect."

Step 2: Check spelling validity.

- Accept = correct spelling, means "to receive."
- Except = correct spelling, means "excluding."
- Expanct = incorrect, mis-spelled word (intended word could be "Expect").
- Aspect = correct spelling, means "a particular feature."

Step 3: Conclusion.

Thus, the mis-spelled word is (C) Expanct.

Quick Tip

When solving spelling-based questions, check carefully for commonly confused words like Accept/Except and Expect/Aspect.

8. Fill in the gap with a suitable preposition:

We are proud our culture.

- (A) in
- (B) of
- (C) from
- (D) to

Correct Answer: (B) of

Solution:

Step 1: Recall the correct phrase.

The common expression in English is "proud of," not "proud in/from/to."

Step 2: Analyze the options.

- (A) in – Incorrect, unnatural in this context.
- (B) of – Correct, "proud of our culture" is standard usage.
- (C) from – Incorrect, not used here.
- (D) to – Incorrect, does not fit.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Hence, the correct preposition is (B) of.

Quick Tip

Always remember fixed preposition phrases. "Proud of" is the correct collocation, not "proud in" or "proud to."

Passage:

This way Valli picked up various small details about the bus journey. The town was six miles from her village. The fare was thirty paise one way "which is almost nothing at all," she heard one well-dressed man say, but to Valli, who scarcely saw that much money from one month to the next, it seemed a fortune.

9. Complete the sentence by choosing the most suitable option:

The town was from Valli's village.

- (A) ten miles

- (B) five miles
- (C) six miles
- (D) very near

Correct Answer: (C) six miles

Solution:

Step 1: Recall the passage.

The passage explicitly states: “The town was six miles from her village.”

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

- (A) ten miles – Incorrect.
- (B) five miles – Incorrect.
- (C) six miles – Correct, directly mentioned.
- (D) very near – Too vague, not the exact distance.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Hence, the correct answer is (C) six miles.

Quick Tip

Always pay attention to numbers and exact figures in passages, as they are usually directly tested in comprehension questions.

10. The fare of the bus was one way.

- (A) thirty paise
- (B) fifty paise
- (C) twenty paise
- (D) forty paise

Correct Answer: (A) thirty paise

Solution:

Step 1: Refer to the passage.

The text clearly states: “The fare was thirty paise one way.”

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

- (A) thirty paise – Correct, exactly from the passage.
- (B) fifty paise – Incorrect.
- (C) twenty paise – Incorrect.
- (D) forty paise – Incorrect.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Thus, the correct fare is (A) thirty paise.

Quick Tip

When the question asks about exact values (like cost, fare, or distance), always look for the precise line in the passage.

11. Democratic elections were held in South Africa in and Mandela became the first black President of a new nation.

- (A) 1990
- (B) 1950
- (C) 1994
- (D) 1984

Correct Answer: (C) 1994

Solution:

Step 1: Historical reference.

South Africa’s first democratic elections were conducted in 1994, after decades of apartheid. Nelson Mandela became the first black President.

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

- (A) 1990 – Important year (Mandela released from prison) but not elections.
- (B) 1950 – Irrelevant to Mandela’s presidency.
- (C) 1994 – Correct, democratic elections held.
- (D) 1984 – Incorrect, apartheid still existed.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (C) 1994.

Quick Tip

Remember, Nelson Mandela became South Africa’s first black President in 1994 after the end of apartheid.

12. Lencho wrote a letter to God asking for a pesos.

- (A) thousand
- (B) hundred
- (C) fifty
- (D) sixty

Correct Answer: (B) hundred

Solution:

Step 1: Recall the story "A Letter to God".

In the story by Gregorio López y Fuentes, Lencho, a poor farmer, wrote a letter to God requesting 100 pesos after his crops were destroyed by a hailstorm.

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

- (A) thousand – Incorrect, too high.
- (B) hundred – Correct, directly from the text.
- (C) fifty – Incorrect, not mentioned.
- (D) sixty – Incorrect, not mentioned.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (B) hundred.

Quick Tip

When recalling literature-based questions, focus on the exact details mentioned in the story, as they are often directly tested.

13. Valli was year old girl.

- (A) ten
- (B) seven
- (C) eight
- (D) twenty

Correct Answer: (C) eight

Solution:

Step 1: Recall the story "Madam Rides the Bus."

Valli, the central character, was just an eight-year-old girl who wished to experience a bus ride. Her maturity and curiosity were beyond her age.

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

- (A) ten – Incorrect.
- (B) seven – Incorrect.
- (C) eight – Correct, explicitly mentioned.
- (D) twenty – Incorrect, does not fit.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Thus, Valli was (C) eight years old.

Quick Tip

Always note down specific ages, dates, or numbers from literature chapters, as they are frequent exam questions.

Passage:

Some say the world will end in fire

Some say in ice,

From what I've tasted of desire

I hold with those who favour fire.

14. Who is the poet of the poem "Fire and Ice"?

- (A) Leslie
- (B) Robert Frost
- (C) Carolyn
- (D) Robin Klein

Correct Answer: (B) Robert Frost

Solution:

Step 1: Context of the poem.

“Fire and Ice” is a famous short poem that reflects on the end of the world, written by Robert Frost. It compares destructive human emotions with natural forces.

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

- (A) Leslie – Incorrect, not related to this poem.
- (B) Robert Frost – Correct, he is the poet of “Fire and Ice.”
- (C) Carolyn – Incorrect, not the poet here.
- (D) Robin Klein – Incorrect, she wrote other works but not this poem.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (B) Robert Frost.

Quick Tip

Always link the poem with the poet — “Fire and Ice” is one of Robert Frost’s most famous works.

15. What does the poet compare ‘fire’ with?

- (A) Hatred
- (B) Desire
- (C) Hot
- (D) Both (A) and (C)

Correct Answer: (B) Desire

Solution:

Step 1: Recall the poem lines.

The poet says: “From what I’ve tasted of desire, I hold with those who favour fire.” This shows the direct comparison of fire with desire.

Step 2: Analyzing the options.

- (A) Hatred – Incorrect, ‘ice’ is compared with hatred, not fire.
- (B) Desire – Correct, fire represents uncontrolled human desire and passion.
- (C) Hot – Incorrect, not the symbolic meaning here.
- (D) Both (A) and (C) – Incorrect, only (B) is right.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Thus, the poet compares ‘fire’ with (B) Desire.

Quick Tip

In poetry, symbolic words often stand for emotions. In “Fire and Ice,” fire = desire, ice = hatred.

16. Mrs. Pumphrey was a

- (A) poor lady
- (B) selfish lady
- (C) rich lady
- (D) gentle lady

Correct Answer: (C) rich lady

Solution:

Step 1: Recall the chapter.

In “A Triumph of Surgery”, Mrs. Pumphrey is shown as a wealthy lady who dotes on her dog Tricki and can afford extravagant care.

Step 2: Conclusion.

Hence, she is best described as a **rich lady**.

Quick Tip

Match character traits with narrative details (wealth, lifestyle, actions) mentioned in the chapter.

17. What did Hari Singh want from Anil?

- (A) Work
- (B) Money
- (C) Eatables
- (D) Home

Correct Answer: (A) Work

Solution:

Step 1: Recall the plot.

In "The Thief's Story", Hari Singh approaches Anil and asks to be employed; he wants **work** (he even offers to cook).

Step 2: Conclusion.

Therefore, the correct option is **(A) Work**.

Quick Tip

Focus on a character's first request or goal in the scene—it's often tested directly.

18. What type of man was Griffin?

- (A) Lawless person
- (B) Brilliant scientist
- (C) Both (A) and (B)
- (D) None of these

Correct Answer: (C) Both (A) and (B)

Solution:

Step 1: Evidence from the chapter.

In "Footprints Without Feet", Griffin invents a way to become invisible (showing he's a **brilliant scientist**) but also commits theft, arson, and assault (showing he's **lawless**).

Step 2: Conclusion.

Both descriptions apply; hence **(C)** is correct.

Quick Tip

When two contrasting traits are both supported by the text, look for an option like "Both (A) and (B)."

19. What did Ebright start collecting in childhood?

- (A) Rocks
- (B) Butterflies
- (C) Coins
- (D) All of these

Correct Answer: (D) All of these

Solution:

Step 1: Recall details.

In "The Making of a Scientist", Ebright collected **butterflies** from a very young age and also collected **rocks** and **coins** during childhood.

Step 2: Conclusion.

Since all three are mentioned among his childhood collections, **(D) All of these** fits best.

Quick Tip

If a character is described with multiple hobbies in the same phase of life, "All of these" is often the safest choice.

20. What was Bholi’s real name?

- (A) Priya
- (B) Geeta
- (C) Sulekha
- (D) Sita

Correct Answer: (C) Sulekha

Solution:

Step 1: Recall the chapter.

In "Bholi", it is clearly stated that Bholi’s real name was **Sulekha**; "Bholi" was a nickname given due to her speech issues and timid nature.

Step 2: Conclusion.

Therefore, the correct option is (C) **Sulekha**.

Quick Tip

Names, dates, and places are frequent one-mark questions—note them while reading.

Part B

1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the question that follows:

Passage:

To try is the first step of the ladder of success. If you do not try, you cannot be successful. All the great men of the world led very diligent lives. They did not waste even a minute. Hence they could perform such glorious deeds. One who works is bound to reap the rewards of one’s efforts. Idleness is the way to ruin oneself. Therefore, one should give up idleness and having girded up one’s loins should try to ascend up the hill to success.

(a) What should we do to get success in life?

Solution:

Step 1: Read the key idea of the passage.

The passage states that **trying is the first step** to success and great people **led diligent lives** without wasting time.

Step 2: Link the idea to the options.

Since idleness leads to ruin and work brings rewards, the correct approach is to **try** and **be diligent**. Options (A), (B), and (D) contradict the passage (idleness, wasting time, or relying on luck).

Step 3: Conclusion.

Therefore, we should **try sincerely and live diligently** to achieve success .

Quick Tip

In comprehension questions, pick the option that directly echoes the author’s main advice; here, “try” and “be diligent” are repeated cues.

1(b). What type of life did the great men of the world lead?

Correct Answer: They led very diligent lives.

Solution:

Step 1: Refer to the passage.

The passage states: “All the great men of the world led very diligent lives.”

Step 2: Conclusion.

Thus, the answer is: **They led very diligent lives.**

Quick Tip

Always quote directly from the passage when the answer is explicitly given.

1(c). Who is bound to reap the reward of his efforts?

Correct Answer: One who works.

Solution:

Step 1: Refer to the passage.

The text says: “One who works is bound to reap the rewards of one’s efforts.”

Step 2: Conclusion.

Therefore, the answer is: **One who works.**

Quick Tip

When answering comprehension questions, lift the exact wording if it matches perfectly.

1(d). Find out a word in the passage which means ‘destroy’.

Correct Answer: Ruin

Solution:

Step 1: Locate synonyms in the passage.

The passage says: “Idleness is the way to ruin oneself.”

Step 2: Compare with the given word.

“Ruin” means to damage or destroy, which matches the question.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Hence, the word is: **Ruin.**

Quick Tip

For vocabulary-based questions, scan the passage for synonyms or words with similar meanings.

2. Write a letter to your father demanding money to purchase your books.

Solution:

Your Name

Your Address

Date: 16 October 2025

To,
My Dear Father,

Subject: Request for money to purchase books

Respected Father,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirits. I am writing to inform you that the new academic session has started, and I am in need of money to purchase my textbooks, notebooks, and other essential study materials. Without these books, it will be difficult for me to follow the classes properly.

Therefore, I kindly request you to send me the required amount at the earliest so that I can buy the necessary books without delay. I assure you that I will use the money carefully and only for this purpose.

With regards and love to all at home.

Your loving son,
(Your Name)

Quick Tip

Always follow the proper format in letter-writing: address, date, salutation, subject (if formal), body, and closing signature.

OR

2. Write an application to your Principal to grant you five days' leave to attend your sister's marriage.

Solution:

To,
The Principal
XYZ School
City Name

Date: 16 October 2025

Subject: Application for five days' leave to attend sister's marriage

Respected Sir/Madam,

With due respect, I wish to state that my elder sister's marriage has been fixed. The marriage ceremonies will take place at our home, and my presence is required to help with the arrangements. Therefore, I kindly request you to grant me leave for five days from 18th October to 22nd October 2025.

I assure you that I will complete all my pending work after rejoining the school. Kindly consider my request and oblige.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours obediently,

(Your Name)

Class: X

Roll No: 25

Quick Tip

In applications, always include: (1) Addressing the Principal, (2) Subject line, (3) Reason for leave, (4) Exact leave duration, and (5) Polite closing.

3. Write a report on "Independence Day" celebration in your school in 80–100 words.

Solution:

Report on Independence Day Celebration

Independence Day was celebrated in our school with great enthusiasm. The school building was beautifully decorated with flowers, flags, and buntings. The Principal hoisted the National Flag, and everyone sang the National Anthem with pride. Students presented cultural programmes including patriotic songs, dances, and speeches. The Principal delivered an inspiring speech on the significance of freedom. At the end, sweets were

distributed among all students. The celebration filled everyone with feelings of patriotism and respect for our nation.

Quick Tip

While writing reports, always include the key points: occasion, decoration, flag hoisting, cultural events, speeches, and conclusion. Keep the word limit in mind.

OR

3. Write an article on the importance of taking regular exercises in about 80–100 words on the basis of the hints given below:

- i) Introduction
- ii) Keeps our body active
- iii) Tension free and happy all day long
- iv) Better concentration on studies
- v) Conclusion

Solution:

Importance of Taking Regular Exercises

Introduction: Health is wealth, and the best way to stay healthy is by doing regular exercises. Exercise is an essential part of life as it improves both physical and mental well-being.

Keeps our body active: Regular exercise keeps our body fit and active. It strengthens muscles, improves immunity, and enhances stamina.

Tension free and happy: Exercise helps in reducing stress and makes us feel fresh and happy throughout the day.

Better concentration: Students benefit greatly from regular exercise, as it improves focus, memory, and concentration on studies.

Conclusion: In short, exercise is the key to a healthy, happy, and successful life. Everyone should make it a habit to exercise daily.

Quick Tip

When writing an article, follow the given hints as sub-points and link them in a logical sequence — introduction, body, and conclusion.

4(a). Rewrite the following sentence by changing into indirect speech:

My brother said to me, “Where are you going?”

Correct Answer: My brother asked me where I was going.

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the reporting verb.

The reporting verb is “said to,” which will change to “asked” in indirect speech.

Step 2: Change the question form.

Direct question: “Where are you going?” → In indirect speech, the helping verb “are” changes to “was.”

Step 3: Adjust pronouns and tense.

“You” (second person) changes to “I” (first person) as per the subject “me.”

Step 4: Combine the sentence.

Final sentence becomes: “My brother asked me where I was going.”

Quick Tip

In indirect speech, always: (1) Change the reporting verb appropriately, (2) Adjust pronouns, (3) Backshift the tense, and (4) Remove quotation marks.

4(b). Change the following into passive voice:

He always helps the poor.

Correct Answer: The poor are always helped by him.

Solution:

Step 1: Identify object.

The object of the sentence is “the poor.”

Step 2: Change into passive voice.

“Helps” → “are helped” (plural subject “the poor”).

Step 3: Add subject.

“By him” is used in passive voice.

Step 4: Conclusion.

Final passive sentence = **The poor are always helped by him.**

Quick Tip

In passive voice, the object becomes the subject, and the tense of the verb must remain unchanged.

4(c). Punctuate the following:

how does this machine work asked the boy

Correct Answer: “How does this machine work?” asked the boy.

Solution:

Step 1: Capitalization.

The first word “how” must begin with a capital letter → “How.”

Step 2: Add question mark.

Since it is a question, place a “?” at the end of the quoted sentence.

Step 3: Add quotation marks.

Direct speech requires inverted commas.

Step 4: Conclusion.

Correct sentence: “How does this machine work?” asked the boy.

Quick Tip

Always begin sentences with a capital letter and use correct punctuation marks for direct speech.

4(d). Translate the following into English:

Correct Answer: Prayagraj is a famous city. It has an important place. The Ganga and Yamuna meet here. The High Court of Uttar Pradesh is here. It is a clean and beautiful city.

Solution:

Step 1: Translate sentence by sentence.

- → Prayagraj is a famous city.
- → It has an important place.
- → The Ganga and Yamuna meet here.
- → The High Court of Uttar Pradesh is here.
- → It is a clean and beautiful city.

Step 2: Combine logically.

Thus, the translation flows naturally into English.

Quick Tip

While translating, keep the meaning intact and ensure smooth English grammar and sentence flow.

5(a). Why was Lencho angry when he received the letter?

Correct Answer: Lencho was angry when he received the letter because the money sent by “God” was less than what he had requested. He believed that the post office employees had stolen part of the money.

Solution:

Step 1: Recall the story.

In “A Letter to God,” Lencho had asked for 100 pesos to recover from the crop loss.

Step 2: The event.

He received only a part of the money in the envelope. Instead of doubting God, he suspected human dishonesty.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Thus, Lencho was angry because he thought the post office employees had stolen the rest of the money.

Quick Tip

In long-answer questions, always combine the story event + Lencho's reaction + reason behind it for a complete response.

OR

5(a). What is the greatest wealth of a nation in Mandela's opinion?

Correct Answer: According to Nelson Mandela, the greatest wealth of a nation is not its mineral resources but its people. It is the character, courage, and determination of the people that truly enrich a nation.

Solution:

Step 1: Recall Mandela's belief.

In "Long Walk to Freedom," Mandela emphasizes that people, not natural resources, are the real strength of a nation.

Step 2: Explanation.

He believed that qualities like honesty, courage, and dedication of ordinary men and women are the foundation of national progress.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Thus, the true wealth of a nation lies in its people and their values, not in gold, diamonds, or material riches.

Quick Tip

For such questions, always contrast what Mandela rejected (minerals) with what he valued (people) to frame a complete answer.

5(b). Describe Anne’s feelings about having a diary.

Correct Answer: Anne Frank felt very happy and relieved to have a diary. She considered it her close friend with whom she could share her innermost thoughts and emotions, which she could not express to anyone else.

Solution:

Step 1: Recall the text.

In “From the Diary of Anne Frank,” she mentioned that she lacked a true friend to confide in.

Step 2: Her feelings.

When she received the diary on her birthday, she treated it as a companion and began pouring her feelings into it.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Thus, Anne valued the diary deeply, considering it her trusted friend and a source of emotional comfort.

Quick Tip

For literature answers, focus on the character’s emotions and reasons, not just the facts.

OR

5(b). Was Lencho surprised to find a letter for him with money in it?

Correct Answer: No, Lencho was not surprised to receive a letter with money in it because he had full faith in God. He was sure that God would help him by sending the money he needed.

Solution:

Step 1: Recall the story.

In “A Letter to God,” Lencho had written a letter asking God for 100 pesos after his crops were ruined.

Step 2: His reaction.

When the post office employees, moved by his faith, collected money and sent it in an envelope, Lencho did not doubt its divine origin.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Lencho was not surprised because his unshakable faith in God made him fully expect the money.

Quick Tip

In comprehension answers, highlight the character's belief or emotion—Lencho's strong faith explains why he was not surprised.

6(a). Bring out Lencho's immense faith in God.

Correct Answer: Lencho's faith in God was unshakable. When his crops were destroyed by a hailstorm, he wrote a letter directly to God asking for 100 pesos. Even when he received less, he never doubted God, but instead suspected the post office employees of stealing. This shows his immense trust in divine help.

Solution:

Step 1: Recall the context.

In "A Letter to God," Lencho's fields were ruined, leaving him hopeless.

Step 2: His action.

He prayed sincerely and wrote a letter to God with full confidence that God would send him money.

Step 3: His reaction.

When he received only part of the amount, his faith in God did not shake; instead, he believed men had interfered.

Step 4: Conclusion.

This highlights Lencho's extraordinary and blind faith in God's power to provide help.

Quick Tip

In long-answer questions, always highlight the incident, the character's reaction, and the moral/lesson to show a complete picture.

6(b). Who was Nelson Mandela? What ideals did he set out for the future of South Africa in his inauguration speech?

Correct Answer: Nelson Mandela was a great freedom fighter and the first black President of South Africa. In his inauguration speech, he pledged to end apartheid, establish democracy, and create a nation based on equality, justice, and freedom for all, irrespective of race or color.

Solution:

Step 1: Identify Nelson Mandela.

Nelson Mandela was the leader of the anti-apartheid movement and became the first black President of South Africa in 1994.

Step 2: His inauguration ideals.

He envisioned South Africa as a free, democratic nation where no one would face discrimination. He promised peace, unity, and equal rights for all citizens.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Through his speech, Mandela laid the foundation of a new South Africa based on equality, dignity, and human rights.

Quick Tip

When answering such questions, always include: (1) Who the person was, (2) Context of the speech/event, and (3) Ideals or values they expressed.

7. Who has composed the poem "Dust of Snow"? What does the poet teach us through this poem?

Correct Answer: The poem "Dust of Snow" was composed by Robert Frost. Through this poem, the poet teaches us that even small incidents can bring a change in our mood, refresh our mind, and make us realize the importance of optimism in life.

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the poet.

"Dust of Snow" is a short but meaningful poem written by Robert Frost.

Step 2: The message of the poem.

The poet describes how a small incident — snow falling from a hemlock tree — changed his dull mood into cheerfulness.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Through this, Frost teaches us that little things in nature can have a big impact on our thoughts, and optimism can transform a gloomy day into a happy one.

Quick Tip

In poetry questions, always include: (1) the poet's name, (2) the event or imagery, and (3) the message or moral.

OR

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

Correct Answer: From the poem "A Tiger in the Zoo" by Leslie Norris:

He stalks in his vivid stripes,
The few steps of his cage,
On pads of velvet quiet,
In his quiet rage.

Solution:

Step 1: Choice of poem.

The chosen poem is "A Tiger in the Zoo" by Leslie Norris, which describes the condition of a caged tiger.

Step 2: Extract lines.

The four lines highlight the tiger’s restricted movement inside the cage and his suppressed anger.

Step 3: Conclusion.

These lines bring out the contrast between the natural majesty of the tiger and his pitiable life in captivity.

Quick Tip

When asked to write lines from a poem, always choose a poem included in the syllabus and avoid reproducing the exact lines already given in the paper.

8(a). Write the central idea of the poem ”The Trees” in about 40–50 words.

Correct Answer: The central idea of Adrienne Rich’s poem *”The Trees”* is the conflict between nature and human civilization. The poet highlights how trees, confined by man-made boundaries, try to return to their natural habitat. The poem emphasizes freedom, the importance of nature, and man’s dependence on it.

Solution:**Step 1: Identify the poem.**

”The Trees” by Adrienne Rich presents the struggle of trees against human control.

Step 2: Meaning.

The poet shows trees trying to break out of houses and return to forests, symbolizing the call of freedom.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Thus, the poem conveys a powerful message: nature cannot be confined, and humans must respect its freedom and preserve it.

Quick Tip

When writing the central idea of a poem, always include (1) the theme, (2) the message, and (3) the poet’s concern for society or nature.

8(b). Write the central idea of the poem "Fog" in about 40–50 words.

Correct Answer: The central idea of Carl Sandburg's poem "Fog" is to show the mysterious and silent arrival of fog. The poet compares fog to a cat that comes quietly, sits silently for a while, and then moves away. The poem reflects nature's quiet beauty and unpredictability.

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the poem.

"Fog" by Carl Sandburg uses metaphorical imagery to describe nature.

Step 2: Poetic comparison.

The fog moves like a cat—quiet, mysterious, and graceful.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Thus, the poem teaches us to admire the beauty and transience of natural phenomena.

Quick Tip

In central idea answers, always include the poet's name, imagery, and the lesson/message.

8(c). Write the central idea of the poem "Fire and Ice" in about 40–50 words.

Correct Answer: The central idea of Robert Frost's poem "Fire and Ice" is the destructive potential of human emotions. Fire represents desire, while ice stands for hatred. Both emotions are strong enough to destroy the world. The poem warns against the extremes of passion and hatred.

Solution:

Step 1: Identify the poem.

"Fire and Ice" is a symbolic poem by Robert Frost.

Step 2: Meaning.

The poet compares fire with uncontrolled desire and ice with hatred and indifference. Both can cause destruction.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The poem emphasizes moderation of emotions to avoid destruction and maintain peace.

Quick Tip

While writing central ideas, explain the symbolism and the message conveyed by the poet.

9(a). Who was responsible for poor condition of the dog named Tricki?

Correct Answer: Mrs. Pumphrey was responsible because she overfed and overpampered Tricki with rich food and sweets, gave little exercise, and treated him like a human, which ruined his health.

Solution:

Step 1: Recall the chapter.

In “**A Triumph of Surgery**,” Tricki becomes ill due to indulgent care.

Step 2: Cause of illness.

Mrs. Pumphrey constantly fed him cakes, chocolates, and rich meals and allowed no proper exercise.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Thus, the poor condition of Tricki was chiefly due to Mrs. Pumphrey’s overfeeding and pampering.

Quick Tip

When a question asks “who was responsible,” name the person and state the exact actions that led to the problem.

9(b). Why was it not an easy task to rob Anil for an experienced thief like Hari Singh?

Correct Answer: It was not easy for Hari Singh to rob Anil because Anil was a kind, simple, and trusting man. Hari felt guilty about betraying him, since Anil had offered him education, food, and shelter.

Solution:

Step 1: Recall the story.

In “**The Thief’s Story**” by Ruskin Bond, Hari Singh planned to rob Anil despite being an experienced thief.

Step 2: Difficulty in robbing.

Anil was a trusting and generous person who treated Hari with kindness. This made Hari emotionally attached and hesitant.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Thus, it was not an easy task because robbing Anil meant betraying his trust and losing the chance to learn and reform.

Quick Tip

When answering character-based questions, highlight both the practical reason and the emotional conflict for a complete response.

10(a). Write a character sketch of Hari Singh.

Correct Answer: Hari Singh was a fifteen-year-old experienced thief. He was clever, cunning, and could easily win people’s trust. However, he was also sensitive and emotional. His encounter with Anil transformed him, and he realized the value of honesty and education over theft.

Solution:

Step 1: Introduction.

Hari Singh, the narrator of ***“The Thief’s Story”*** by Ruskin Bond, was a young and skilled thief.

Step 2: His nature.

He could easily befriend people and plan robberies, showing his cleverness and cunning side. Yet, he was lonely and yearned for acceptance.

Step 3: Transformation.

Anil's kindness and trust touched his heart. Hari realized the value of love, education, and honesty, which made him decide to reform.

Step 4: Conclusion.

Thus, Hari Singh is portrayed as a thief with a good heart who ultimately chooses the right path.

Quick Tip

In character sketches, always include the character's qualities, weaknesses, and transformation to make the answer complete.

10(b). Describe the most important character of the chapter "A Triumph of Surgery" — Tricky, in detail.

Correct Answer: Tricky was a small, pampered pet dog of Mrs. Pumphrey. He was fond of rich food and chocolates, which made him lazy and sick. Although weak and inactive due to overfeeding, Tricky was lovable and innocent. With proper care and simple living, he regained his health and playful nature.

Solution:**Step 1: Introduction.**

In James Herriot's "A Triumph of Surgery," Tricky is shown as a small pet dog who was overfed by his mistress.

Step 2: His habits.

Tricky loved food, sweets, and was pampered too much. This made him overweight, inactive, and weak.

Step 3: Transformation.

After being taken to the veterinary hospital, Tricki was given simple food and proper care. Soon, he recovered, played happily with other dogs, and regained his energy.

Step 4: Conclusion.

Thus, Tricki is presented as an innocent, lovable dog whose condition improves with discipline and proper treatment.

Quick Tip

When writing a character sketch of an animal, describe its nature, habits, problems, and transformation.