

UP Board Class 12 English - 316 (HZ) - 2025 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.

1.

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

Early rising leads to health and happiness. The man who rises late, can have little rest in the course of the day. Anyone who lies in bed late is compelled to work till a late hour in the evening. He has to do without the evening exercise which is so necessary for his health. In spite of all his efforts his work will not produce as good results as that of the early riser. The reason for this is that he cannot take advantage of the refreshing hours of the morning. Some people say that the quiet hour of midnight is the best time for working. Several great thinkers say that they can write best only when they burn the midnight oil. Yet it is true to say that few men have a clear brain at midnight when the body needs rest and sleep. Those who work at that time, soon ruin their health. Bad health must, in the long run, have a bad effect on the quality of their work.

a. Why is early rising better than rising late?

Answer:

Step 1: Health and happiness.

Early rising leads to better health and happiness. Those who wake up early can take advantage of the morning hours, which are refreshing and beneficial to one's well-being.

Step 2: Impact of rising late.

On the other hand, rising late forces an individual to work late into the evening and miss out on the necessary evening exercise. This lack of physical activity negatively impacts both health and work performance.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Thus, early rising helps individuals achieve better results in their work, improves health, and brings happiness due to the productivity gained from the early hours.

Final Answer:

Early rising is better than rising late because it promotes health, allows for evening exercise, and improves productivity.

Quick Tip

Focus on the positive effects of early rising, both for productivity and overall health.

b. Why do some thinkers burn the midnight oil?

Answer:

Step 1: Need for quiet time.

Some thinkers prefer burning the midnight oil because they believe the quiet hours of the night are ideal for concentrated work. The peaceful environment helps them focus better on their ideas.

Step 2: Effectiveness of the midnight hours.

Great thinkers feel that they can only produce their best work during these hours when there is little distraction. The solitude of the night enables them to think clearly and creatively.

Step 3: Conclusion.

While some people argue that midnight is the best time for thinking, it is important to note that working late at night might negatively affect one's health.

Final Answer:

Some thinkers burn the midnight oil because they find the quiet hours of the night ideal for concentration.

Quick Tip

Consider the balance between productivity and the impact of late hours on health when discussing the effectiveness of midnight work.

c. What are the advantages of both morning hours and midnight hours?

Answer:

Step 1: Advantages of morning hours.

Morning hours are known to be refreshing, and they give individuals a fresh start. Early risers can take advantage of these hours to be productive and healthy, including engaging in physical activities and achieving good work results.

Step 2: Advantages of midnight hours.

On the other hand, the midnight hours provide a quiet and undisturbed environment, ideal for thinkers and people who need complete focus for their work. Many creative individuals feel that their minds are most productive when the world is silent.

Step 3: Conclusion.

While morning hours are beneficial for overall health and productivity, midnight hours may provide the mental clarity required for focused and uninterrupted work. Each has its unique advantages depending on the type of work and the individual's needs.

Final Answer:

Morning hours promote health and productivity, while midnight hours provide an ideal environment for
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Quick Tip

Understand the advantages of both time periods and how they cater to different work needs—physical activity vs. mental concentration.

d. What is the effect of health on one's work?

Answer:

Step 1: Importance of good health.

Good health plays a crucial role in enhancing one's work efficiency. A healthy individual is able to perform tasks with greater energy, focus, and motivation. Physical well-being impacts mental sharpness, thus contributing to better work performance.

Step 2: Impact of poor health.

On the contrary, poor health can have a detrimental effect on work. A person suffering from illness or fatigue may find it difficult to concentrate, leading to subpar performance. Poor health affects both physical abilities and cognitive function.

Step 3: Conclusion.

Therefore, maintaining good health is essential for sustained productivity, while poor health can significantly reduce the quality and quantity of work.

Final Answer:

Good health is essential for effective work performance, as it increases energy, focus, and cognitive ability.

Quick Tip

Emphasize the long-term benefits of maintaining good health and its direct impact on work efficiency and performance.

e(i). Which word in the passage is opposite of 'noisy'?

Answer:

Step 1: Locate the opposite word.

The opposite of "noisy" in the passage is "quiet." The passage mentions the "quiet hour of midnight," which contrasts with the term "noisy."

Final Answer:

The opposite of 'noisy' in the passage is 'quiet'.

Quick Tip

When looking for antonyms in passages, consider the context in which the word is used to find its opposite.

e(ii). Give the antonym of 'several'

Answer:

Step 1: Antonym of 'several'.

The antonym of "several" is "few." "Several" refers to a number greater than two, while "few" refers to a small number, typically two or three.

Final Answer:

The antonym of 'several' is 'few'.

Quick Tip

When identifying antonyms, focus on the number or quantity implied by the word in context.

e(iii). Give the synonym of 'ruin'

Answer:

Step 1: Synonym of 'ruin'.

The synonym of "ruin" is "destroy." Both words imply the complete deterioration or loss of something, such as health or work performance in the context of the passage.

Final Answer:

The synonym of 'ruin' is 'destroy'.

Quick Tip

When looking for synonyms, consider words that share similar meanings in the same context.

Q.2,a. Write an article on India's performance at the Olympic Games in about 100-150 words.

Solution:

India's performance at the Olympic Games has evolved significantly over the years, from struggling to win medals to consistently producing world-class athletes. Historically, India had limited success in the Olympics, with early performances often yielding no medals at all. However, recent years have seen a surge in India's medal count, especially in sports such as badminton, wrestling, boxing, and shooting. Athletes like P.V. Sindhu, who won a silver medal in Rio 2016, Sushil Kumar, who has won multiple Olympic medals in wrestling, and Neeraj Chopra, who won gold in Tokyo 2020 in javelin throw, have become national heroes.

India's government has made significant strides to improve the state of sports in the country. Initiatives such as the Khelo India program aim to discover and nurture young talent, while improved training infrastructure and funding have helped Indian athletes perform better on the global stage. However, the country still faces challenges such as the lack of sports culture, insufficient coaching, and limited resources for young athletes outside major sports. Despite these challenges, India's Olympic journey continues to inspire millions of young sports enthusiasts.

Quick Tip

When discussing a country's progress, focus on key achievements, influential figures, and the long-term impact of specific programs.

Q. 2b. Write an article on terrorism – a threat to mankind in about 100-150 words.

Solution:

Terrorism is one of the most persistent and dangerous threats facing humanity today. It is the use of violence, fear, and intimidation to achieve political, religious, or ideological goals. Terrorist attacks have targeted civilians, public spaces, and vital infrastructure, causing widespread destruction and loss of life. The aftermath of such attacks often includes psychological trauma, displacement of communities, and long-lasting social and economic damage.

Terrorism knows no borders; it affects nations across the globe. Its roots can be traced to various causes, including political oppression, religious extremism, poverty, and inequality. While combating terrorism requires military and security measures, addressing the root causes is equally important. Governments must strengthen international cooperation to enhance intelligence-sharing, prevent radicalization, and support economic and social development to reduce the appeal of extremist ideologies.

Efforts to combat terrorism must also focus on protecting fundamental freedoms and human rights, ensuring that counter-terrorism measures do not violate the very principles they seek to defend. A collaborative global approach, alongside local and national efforts, is crucial in creating a safer, more secure world for future generations.

Quick Tip

When writing about global issues like terrorism, aim to balance both the causes and the potential solutions for a more comprehensive perspective.

Q. 2c. Write an article on how to live a long healthy life in about 100-150 words.

Solution:

Living a long and healthy life requires a holistic approach that encompasses physical, mental, and emotional well-being. One of the key aspects of maintaining health is regular physical activity. Exercise, whether in the form of walking, jogging, yoga, or strength training, has been shown to improve cardiovascular health, boost immunity, and reduce the risk of chronic diseases like diabetes and hypertension. Alongside physical activity, it is essential to maintain a well-balanced diet. Eating a variety of nutrient-dense foods, including fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins, helps support the body's vital functions and prevents obesity and nutritional deficiencies.

Equally important is mental health. Managing stress through mindfulness, meditation, and social interaction plays a pivotal role in ensuring overall well-being. Adequate sleep is also essential for rejuvenating the body and mind. Aiming for 7-8 hours of quality sleep each night supports brain function and helps the body repair and regenerate. Staying socially connected, practicing gratitude, and engaging in activities that bring joy contribute to emotional health and fulfillment.

Living a long healthy life is a result of consistent habits that focus on the body, mind, and spirit. By making conscious choices every day, individuals can reduce the risks of chronic diseases, maintain mental clarity, and enhance their quality of life.

Quick Tip

When discussing health and longevity, emphasize a balanced lifestyle that integrates physical activity, mental well-being, and healthy eating habits.

Q3. Write a letter to the Editor of a local newspaper about the cleanliness of your city / village / town.

Solution:

Letter to the Editor:

The Editor

[Name of the Newspaper]

[City]

[Date]

Subject: Complaint Regarding the Poor Cleanliness in [City Name]

Sir,

I would like to bring to your attention the deteriorating cleanliness condition in our city, [City Name]. The accumulation of garbage in various parts of the city, especially in residential areas, is a major concern. There is also a lack of proper waste disposal systems, which leads to stinking garbage piles along the roads.

Despite several complaints to the municipal authorities, no concrete steps have been taken to address the issue. The situation has become worse during the rainy season, with stagnant water accumulating in many areas, which not only increases the risk of diseases but also creates an unsightly environment.

I request your esteemed newspaper to highlight this issue in the coming editions. Public awareness and media coverage can urge the authorities to take immediate action to improve the cleanliness of the city.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully,

[Your Name]

[Your Address]

Quick Tip

In your letter, always be polite but firm. The aim is to highlight the issue and urge action while maintaining a respectful tone.

OR

Q3. Write a letter to the District Magistrate of your district requesting him / her to tackle the grim flood situation in your city / town / village.

Solution:

Letter to the District Magistrate:

The District Magistrate

[District Name]

[Date]

Subject: Request for Immediate Action to Address the Flood Situation in [City Name]

Sir,

I am writing to you with great concern regarding the ongoing flood situation in [City Name]. The heavy rainfall over the past few days has caused severe flooding in several low-lying areas of the city. Roads are submerged, and many houses have been inundated, leading to a massive disruption in the daily lives of the citizens.

The local authorities have struggled to manage the situation, and there has been no effective intervention to drain the water or provide relief to the affected people. The residents are facing immense difficulties, with many areas being cut off from essential services.

I urge you to take immediate action to tackle the situation. Proper drainage and evacuation plans must be implemented, and relief teams should be sent to the affected areas. The local authorities should also be directed to expedite the process of clearing roads and providing temporary shelters for those displaced by the floods.

I trust that you will take swift action to resolve this crisis and help the people of [City Name].

Thanking you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Yours faithfully,

[Your Name]

[Your Address]

Quick Tip

When writing a letter to a public official, it is important to clearly state the issue, the impact on the community, and the actions you expect from the authorities.

Q4. Choose the correct option to answer the following questions: **(a) That which cannot be corrected is called**

- (i) incorrectible
- (ii) incorrectable
- (iii) uncorrected
- (iv) incorrigible

Correct Answer: (iv) incorrigible

Solution:

The correct word to describe something that cannot be corrected is **incorrigible**.

- **incorrectible:** This refers to something that cannot be made correct, but it's not the most common word used in this context.
- **incorrectable:** This is a form that is rarely used; the correct word should focus on the inability to correct something permanently.
- **uncorrected:** This simply means that something has not been corrected yet, which is not the intended meaning.

- **incorrigible:** This is the correct choice, as it directly refers to something that cannot be corrected or improved, typically used in contexts involving behaviors or conditions that are beyond fixing.

incorrigible

Quick Tip

Always look for the word that directly fits the context. In this case, "incorrigible" clearly means "cannot be corrected" and is used most frequently in such situations.

Q4. (b) The phrase 'A bone of contention' means

- (i) quarrelsome
- (ii) with a reason
- (iii) reason of quarrel
- (iv) a disturbing man

Correct Answer: (iii) reason of quarrel

Solution:

The phrase **a bone of contention** refers to something that causes a disagreement or argument, commonly seen as a reason for a quarrel.

- **quarrelsome:** This refers to a person who is inclined to engage in arguments, but not the meaning of the phrase.
- **with a reason:** While the phrase is related to a reason, it doesn't directly imply just having a reason; it's about the subject causing the issue.
- **reason of quarrel:** This is the correct meaning, as "a bone of contention" refers to the cause or issue that leads to a dispute or quarrel.
- **a disturbing man:** This option is unrelated to the phrase's meaning, which focuses on an issue or point of disagreement, not a person.

Quick Tip

When encountering idiomatic expressions, think of the context in which they are used.
"A bone of contention" is about a point of disagreement, not just a quarrelsome person.

Q4. (c) The synonym of 'frank' is

- (i) foolish
- (ii) shameless
- (iii) wide spoken
- (iv) candid

Correct Answer: (iv) candid

Solution:

The word "frank" means being open, honest, and direct in speech. The best synonym for "frank" is **candid**.

- **foolish:** This is unrelated; "foolish" refers to lacking good sense, which is the opposite of being frank.
- **shameless:** This means lacking shame, which is also unrelated to being frank.
- **wide spoken:** This refers to something that is widely spoken, which is not synonymous with "frank."
- **candid:** This is the correct choice as it also means being honest, straightforward, and open, which aligns perfectly with the meaning of "frank."

Quick Tip

When looking for synonyms, focus on words with similar meanings, not just in sound. "Candid" closely mirrors the meaning of "frank," referring to honesty and openness.

Q4. (d) The antonym of 'ancient' is

- (i) old
- (ii) ascent
- (iii) descent
- (iv) modern

Correct Answer: (iv) modern

Solution:

The word "ancient" refers to something very old or from a distant past. The antonym of "ancient" is **modern**, which refers to something from the present time or recent times.

- **old:** This is not the opposite of "ancient" since both are terms related to age, but "ancient" refers to something from a much older time.
- **ascent:** This refers to the act of rising or going up, which is unrelated to the meaning of "ancient."
- **descent:** This refers to going down, and while it's an antonym of ascent, it doesn't relate to "ancient."
- **modern:** This is the correct antonym, as it refers to something belonging to the present time, the opposite of ancient.

modern

Quick Tip

For antonyms, think of opposites in both meaning and time. "Ancient" relates to old times, while "modern" refers to present-day things.

Q4. (e) Which word in this sentence is an error?

- (i) always
- (ii) speak
- (iii) a
- (iv) truth

Correct Answer: (iii) a

Solution:

The sentence "Always speak a truth" is incorrect because the word "truth" is an uncountable noun and does not take an indefinite article "a". The correct sentence would be "Always speak the truth."

- **always:** This is correct as it indicates frequency and doesn't affect the grammar of the sentence.
- **speak:** This is correct; it is the appropriate verb in the sentence.
- **a:** This is the error. The article "a" is incorrect before "truth," which is uncountable.
- **truth:** This is correct as a noun, but it doesn't take the article "a" in this context.

a

Quick Tip

When using uncountable nouns like "truth," don't use indefinite articles like "a" or "an." Instead, use "the" if you are referring to the concept.

Q5. (a) Change any one of the following into indirect narration:

- (i) He said to me, "I shall help you today."**

Correct Answer: (i) He said to me, "I shall help you today."

Solution:

Direct Speech: He said to me, "I shall help you today."

Indirect Speech: He told me that he would help me that day.

Explanation:

1. The reporting verb "said to" changes to "told" in indirect speech when the subject is a pronoun like "me." 2. The modal verb "shall" changes to "would" in indirect speech when it refers to the future. 3. The pronoun "you" changes to "me" because the speaker is talking to the person being reported. 4. "Today" changes to "that day" to reflect the time shift.

He told me that he would help me that day.

Quick Tip

Remember that in indirect speech, pronouns, verb tenses, and time expressions often need to be changed to reflect the reporting context.

Q5. (a) (i) He said to his friend, "Good morning! How are you?"

Correct Answer: (ii) He said to his friend, "Good morning! How are you?"

Solution:

Direct Speech: He said to his friend, "Good morning! How are you?"

Indirect Speech: He greeted his friend and asked how he was.

Explanation:

1. The salutation "Good morning!" in direct speech becomes "greeted" in indirect speech. 2. "How are you?" changes to "asked how he was" to convert the question into indirect speech. 3. The pronoun "you" changes to "he" because it is the friend's condition being reported.

He greeted his friend and asked how he was.

Quick Tip

When converting greetings or questions in direct speech to indirect speech, ensure that the pronouns and verb tenses are appropriately adjusted, and remember that a question becomes a statement.

Q5. (b) Combine any one of the following as directed:

(i) He was so tired. He could not run. (Into a Simple sentence)

Correct Answer: (i) He was so tired. He could not run. (Into a Simple sentence)

Solution:

To combine the sentences into a simple sentence, we can use a subordinating conjunction like "that" to connect the two clauses:

Direct Sentences: He was so tired. He could not run.

Simple Sentence: He was so tired that he could not run.

Explanation: The two independent clauses are joined with the conjunction "that," making the sentence simple while conveying the same meaning.

He was so tired that he could not run.
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Quick Tip

To combine two sentences into a simple sentence, use subordinating conjunctions like "because," "if," "when," or "that" to link the clauses.

Q5. (ii) The thief was punished. The thief was fined. (Into a Compound sentence)

Correct Answer: (ii) The thief was punished. The thief was fined. (Into a Compound sentence)

Solution:

To combine the two sentences into a compound sentence, we can use a coordinating conjunction like "and":

Direct Sentences: The thief was punished. The thief was fined.

Compound Sentence: The thief was punished, and the thief was fined.

Explanation: The two independent clauses are joined by the coordinating conjunction "and," which connects the related actions in the sentence.

The thief was punished, and the thief was fined.

Quick Tip

When combining two independent clauses into a compound sentence, use coordinating conjunctions like "and," "but," "or," etc.

Q5. (c) Transform any one of the following as directed:

(i) Nainital is not so hot as Agra. (Into Comparative degree)

Correct Answer: (i) Nainital is not so hot as Agra. (Into Comparative degree)

Solution:

For converting into Comparative degree, the sentence structure should be altered to make a direct comparison between the two places:

Direct Sentence: Nainital is not so hot as Agra.

Comparative Degree: Nainital is less hot than Agra.

Explanation: In comparative degree, we often replace "not so + adjective + as" with "less + adjective + than" to show the difference in degree between two objects.

Nainital is less hot than Agra.

Quick Tip

In the comparative degree, we often use "less" and "than" to make comparisons between two things.

Q5. (ii) Their glory can never fade. (Into Interrogative sentence)

Correct Answer: (ii) Their glory can never fade. (Into Interrogative sentence)

Solution:

To convert the sentence into an interrogative form, we need to change the structure into a question.

Direct Sentence: Their glory can never fade.

Interrogative Sentence: Can their glory ever fade?

Explanation: The auxiliary verb "can" moves to the beginning of the sentence, and the word "never" is replaced with "ever" to form the question.

Can their glory ever fade?

Quick Tip

To form an interrogative sentence, invert the subject and auxiliary verb and adjust any adverbs like "never" to "ever" in questions.

Q5. (d) Correct any one of the following sentences:

(i) Death is preferable than dishonour.

Correct Answer: (i) Death is preferable to dishonour.

Solution:

The correct sentence should be: "Death is preferable to dishonour."

Explanation: The correct preposition to use with "preferable" is "to," not "than."

Incorrect Sentence: Death is preferable than dishonour.

Corrected Sentence: Death is preferable to dishonour.

Death is preferable to dishonour.

Quick Tip

When using the word "preferable," always use "to" and not "than" to indicate preference between two things.

Q8. (ii) If he will come, I shall go with him.

Correct Answer: (ii) If he will come, I shall go with him.

Solution:

The correct sentence should be: "If he comes, I shall go with him."

Explanation: The structure "If he will come" is incorrect in this context. In the "if" clause, we use the present tense ("comes") to refer to future events in conditional sentences.

Incorrect Sentence: If he will come, I shall go with him.

Corrected Sentence: If he comes, I shall go with him.

If he comes, I shall go with him.

Quick Tip

In first conditional sentences, the "if" clause uses the present tense, not "will," even when talking about the future.

Q5e. Use any *one* of the following pairs of words in your own sentences to make the difference in their meanings clear:

(i) Empire – Umpire

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the meaning of the words.

- **Empire:** A large group of states or countries ruled over by a single authority.
- **Umpire:** A person who enforces the rules in a game or sport.

Step 2: Use them in sentences.

- Sentence with **Empire**: “The Roman Empire was one of the greatest civilizations in history.”
- Sentence with **Umpire**: “The umpire raised his finger to declare the batsman out.”

Step 3: Conclusion. The sentences clearly show that *Empire* refers to a vast political territory, while *Umpire* refers to a sports official.

Final Answer:

Empire = Political Territory, Umpire = Sports Official

Quick Tip

For homophones or similar-sounding words, use them in sentences from different contexts (history, sports, banking, etc.) to highlight the difference.

(ii): Check – Cheque

Solution:

Step 1: Understand the meaning of the words.

- **Check**: To examine something carefully or to stop/limit something.
- **Cheque**: A written order directing a bank to pay money to a person.

Step 2: Use them in sentences.

- Sentence with **Check**: “The teacher asked the students to check their answers before submitting the paper.”
- Sentence with **Cheque**: “She received her monthly salary through a cheque issued by the company.”

Step 3: Conclusion. The sentences clearly show that *Check* means to examine or control, while *Cheque* refers to a financial document for payment.

Final Answer:

Check = Examine/Control, Cheque = Bank Document for Payment

Quick Tip

Words with British vs. American spelling variations (like cheque vs. check) can also have completely different meanings. Always link them to the right context.

Q5.

चाय का उत्पादन सर्वप्रथम चीन में हुआ था। प्रारम्भ में इसका प्रयोग दवा के रूप में किया गया किंतु बाद में यह सर्वाधिक प्रिय पेय बन गया। अब यह अधिकांशतः भारत और श्रीलंका में पैदा होती है। अब तो सम्पूर्ण संसार में चाय पीने की आदत हो गई है। कठिन परिश्रम के बाद एक प्याली चाय ताजगी देती है।

Solution:

The moon was created in the most developed form of sound. In the beginning, its use was for medicinal purposes in Hinduism.

It first became a drink. Now it is used as a beverage in India and Sri Lanka. Now, it is a habit adopted by the entire world. After the tea-tasting writer, a lasting craving for tea is left.

Quick Tip

When translating, ensure that idiomatic expressions or cultural references are maintained and accurately reflect the context in the target language.

Q7(a). What is the reason that made M. Hamel declare that the lesson which he was going to teach on that fateful day, was to be the last lesson?

Correct Answer: M. Hamel declared it was the last lesson because French was to be replaced by German in schools of Alsace and Lorraine.

Solution:**Step 1: Background.**

The story “*The Last Lesson*” by Alphonse Daudet is set in Alsace during the Franco-Prussian War (1870–71).

Step 2: Announcement.

M. Hamel, the French teacher, informed students that this would be their last French lesson.

Step 3: Reason.

The Prussian authorities had ordered that only German be taught in Alsace and Lorraine schools. This decision meant that French would no longer be taught.

Step 4: Conclusion.

Thus, M. Hamel declared that day’s class to be the last French lesson.

Final Answer:

French was replaced by German in schools of Alsace and Lorraine.

Quick Tip

Always connect historical context with the character’s declaration for clarity.

Q7(a) OR. Who was the rattrap seller? How did he make ratttraps?

Correct Answer: The rattrap seller was a poor vagabond who made ratttraps from old wires he found.

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

The rattrap seller was a homeless, wandering vagabond who lived by begging and selling ratttraps.

Step 2: His work.

He collected scraps of wire that he found or received as charity.

Step 3: Making of ratttraps.

He bent and twisted these wires into small traps that were used to catch rats.

Step 4: Conclusion.

Thus, his livelihood depended on making and selling rattraps.

Final Answer:

The vagabond made rattraps by twisting scrap wires.

Quick Tip

When asked “Who” and “How,” always write both the identity and the process separately.

Q7(b). What was the meaning of garbage for children? What did they find in it?

Correct Answer: For children, garbage meant a source of hope and survival; they found coins, toys, and useful things in it.

Solution:

Step 1: Context.

In “*Lost Spring*” by Anees Jung, garbage is described through the perspective of ragpicker children.

Step 2: Meaning of garbage.

For elders, garbage was a means of livelihood. For children, it symbolized a source of hope and excitement.

Step 3: What they found.

Children sometimes discovered coins, toys, or other valuable objects that brought them joy.

Step 4: Conclusion.

Thus, garbage was not just waste but a symbol of survival and dreams for the children.

Final Answer:

Garbage = Hope for children, with coins and toys found in it.

Quick Tip

Relating the answer with children's perspective makes it more impactful.

Q7(b) OR. What did the instructor do to train Douglas?

Correct Answer: The instructor used a systematic method, teaching Douglas swimming step by step with the help of a belt, rope, and pulley.

Solution:

Step 1: Problem.

Douglas had a fear of water due to a near-drowning experience in childhood.

Step 2: Role of instructor.

The instructor tied a belt around Douglas, which was attached to a rope and pulley. He guided him back and forth across the pool.

Step 3: Step-by-step teaching.

He taught Douglas how to exhale underwater, inhale at the surface, and eventually use coordinated strokes.

Step 4: Conclusion.

Gradually, the instructor built his confidence and helped him overcome the fear of water.

Final Answer:

The instructor trained Douglas step by step using a belt, rope, and pulley.

Quick Tip

For training-related answers, describe both the method and the gradual progress.

Q8(a). On what ground did the English owners of indigo plantation demand compensation from the sharecroppers?

Correct Answer: The English planters demanded compensation on the false pretext that sharecroppers had signed contracts to grow indigo but now wished to be released from them.

Solution:

Step 1: Background.

This question is from the chapter “*Indigo*” by Louis Fischer, which describes Gandhi’s Champaran movement.

Step 2: Reason for compensation.

The British planters had long forced peasants to cultivate indigo on 15% of their land under the exploitative “*sharecropping system*”.

Step 3: The pretext.

When synthetic indigo was invented in Germany, demand for natural indigo fell. The landlords decided to release the peasants from the contract but demanded compensation for doing so.

Step 4: Conclusion.

Thus, the planters falsely claimed that peasants must pay them compensation for giving up indigo cultivation.

Final Answer:

Planters demanded compensation as peasants were being released from indigo contracts.

Quick Tip

Always mention the exploitative contract system (*15% indigo*) to strengthen your answer.

Q8(b). Mention the hazards of working in the glass bangle industry.

Correct Answer: The hazards include poor working conditions, health risks like blindness, child labour exploitation, and lack of opportunities for education.

Solution:

Step 1: Context.

This question comes from the chapter “*Lost Spring*” by Anees Jung, describing the lives of families in Firozabad’s glass bangle industry.

Step 2: Health hazards.

Children and workers work in dark, poorly ventilated rooms with furnaces, often leading to lung diseases and gradual loss of eyesight.

Step 3: Social issues.

Generations of families are trapped in poverty, unable to break free due to debt, middlemen, and lack of proper education.

Step 4: Conclusion.

Thus, the glass bangle industry exposes workers to health risks and perpetuates social exploitation.

Final Answer:

Hazards = Blindness, diseases, child labour, and poverty trap.

Quick Tip

Link both **health hazards** and **social exploitation** for a complete answer.

9.

Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions that follow:

Perhaps the Earth can teach us

As when everything seems dead

And later proves to be alive.

Now I’ll count up to twelve

And you keep quiet and I will go.

Q9(a). What lesson does the Earth teach us?

Correct Answer: The Earth teaches us that life continues even when everything seems dead.

Solution:

Step 1: Context.

The lines are from Pablo Neruda's poem "*Keeping Quiet*".

Step 2: Lesson from Earth.

The Earth appears lifeless in winter but later blossoms with life in spring.

Step 3: Meaning.

This cycle teaches us resilience and the continuity of life despite temporary stillness.

Step 4: Conclusion.

Thus, the Earth teaches us patience, renewal, and the power of silence.

Final Answer:

Earth teaches us that life renews even after seeming dead.

Quick Tip

When answering, always connect natural imagery (winter–spring) to the lesson of renewal.

Q9(b). What remains alive when everything seems to be dead?

Correct Answer: Life itself remains alive even when everything seems dead.

Solution:**Step 1: Observation.**

On the surface, nature may seem dead, for example, barren land or leafless trees in winter.

Step 2: Hidden truth.

Inside the Earth, seeds and roots stay alive, waiting for the right moment to grow.

Step 3: Meaning.

This shows that life continues silently, even when it appears absent.

Step 4: Conclusion.

Thus, life and vitality remain alive beneath apparent stillness.

Final Answer:

Life continues silently even when all seems dead.

Quick Tip

Relating the answer to seeds or roots helps make it vivid and exam-ready.

Q9(c). What does the poet ask us to do?

Correct Answer: The poet asks us to keep still, reflect in silence, and unite in peace.

Solution:

Step 1: Context.

In “*Keeping Quiet*”, Pablo Neruda emphasizes silence and self-reflection.

Step 2: Poet’s request.

He asks people to pause their busy lives, count to twelve, and remain quiet for a moment.

Step 3: Purpose.

This silence would allow us to realize the value of peace, harmony, and togetherness.

Step 4: Conclusion.

Thus, the poet urges everyone to be still, thoughtful, and united.

Final Answer:

The poet asks us to keep quiet, reflect, and live in peace.

Quick Tip

Remember: The poet suggests silence not as inactivity, but as reflection and unity.

Q10(a). Write the central idea of the poem “*A Thing of Beauty*.”

Correct Answer: The poem highlights the everlasting power of beauty in providing joy and peace to human life.

Solution:

Step 1: Poet and poem.

The poem is written by John Keats, a romantic poet.

Step 2: Central theme.

Keats describes how beautiful things in nature, like trees, flowers, streams, and the sun, give humans eternal joy and inspiration.

Step 3: Message.

Beauty is a source of hope and comfort, helping people overcome sadness and negativity.

Step 4: Conclusion.

Thus, the central idea is that beauty never fades; it brings lasting happiness to human life.

Final Answer:

Beauty provides everlasting joy and relieves human suffering.

Quick Tip

Always mention “eternal joy” and “relief from sorrow” when writing the central idea of Keats’ poem.

Q10(b). Write the central idea of the poem “*Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers*.”

Correct Answer: The poem shows the contrast between Aunt Jennifer’s oppressed life and her fearless art symbolized by the tigers.

Solution:

Step 1: Poet and poem.

The poem is written by Adrienne Rich, a feminist poet.

Step 2: Central theme.

Aunt Jennifer lives under the weight of male dominance and marital oppression. However, her embroidered tigers represent freedom, courage, and power.

Step 3: Symbolism.

The tigers symbolize what Aunt Jennifer longs for – a fearless, independent spirit.

Step 4: Conclusion.

Thus, the poem highlights women's oppression and their silent desire for freedom.

Final Answer:

The poem contrasts oppression in life with freedom in art.

Quick Tip

When writing the central idea, always mention the symbolic contrast between Aunt Jennifer and the tigers.

Q10(c). Write the central idea of the poem "*My Mother at Sixty-Six*."

Correct Answer: The poem expresses the poet's fear of losing her mother due to old age.

Solution:

Step 1: Poet and poem.

The poem is written by Kamala Das, known for her confessional poetry.

Step 2: Central theme.

While traveling with her mother, the poet notices her mother's pale, aging face, which reminds her of death and separation.

Step 3: Contrast.

She contrasts her mother's frailty with the energy of young children playing outside.

Step 4: Conclusion.

The central idea is the poet's deep emotional bond with her mother and her fear of inevitable loss.

Final Answer:

The poem conveys love, aging, and the fear of separation.

Quick Tip

Always connect the poem with the universal theme of love, aging, and fear of loss.

Q11(a). What did Dr. Sadao do to ensure the safe exit of the American soldier?

Correct Answer: Dr. Sadao gave the American soldier a boat, food, water, extra clothing, and told him to escape safely to a nearby island where he would be rescued by a ship.

Solution:

Step 1: Situation.

Dr. Sadao, though loyal to his country, saved the life of the wounded American soldier.

Step 2: His arrangement.

He arranged a boat with essentials like food, water, and warm clothes.

Step 3: Escape plan.

He instructed the soldier to wait at a nearby uninhabited island for a passing American ship to rescue him.

Step 4: Conclusion.

Thus, Dr. Sadao ensured the soldier's safe exit without betraying his humanitarian values.

Final Answer:

Dr. Sadao ensured the soldier's safe escape by arranging a boat, food, clothes, and a rescue plan.
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Quick Tip

Always include the “boat, food, clothes, and rescue plan” when answering about Dr. Sadao.

OR

Q11(a). Describe the environment of Antarctica.

Correct Answer: Antarctica is the coldest, driest, windiest place on Earth with no trees, no human settlements, and a simple ecosystem of only cold-adapted species.

Solution:

Step 1: Geography.

Antarctica is a vast white landscape, covered with ice and snow.

Step 2: Climate.

It is extremely cold, dry, and windy, with harsh conditions.

Step 3: Life forms.

Only simple organisms like lichens, mosses, seals, and penguins survive there.

Step 4: Conclusion.

Antarctica is pristine, untouched by modern civilization, making it a natural laboratory.

Final Answer:

Antarctica is the coldest, driest, and most pristine continent with minimal life.

Quick Tip

Always mention “coldest, driest, windiest, no human life” when describing Antarctica.

Q11(b). What was the third level? Where was it situated?

Correct Answer: The third level was an imaginary platform at the Grand Central Station in New York, representing an escape into the peaceful past of the 1890s.

Solution:**Step 1: Context.**

Charley, the narrator, believed he had discovered a third level at Grand Central Station.

Step 2: Description.

It looked old-fashioned, with gas lights, brass spittoons, and people in 19th-century dress.

Step 3: Location.

It was supposedly situated below the two existing levels of Grand Central Station.

Step 4: Conclusion.

The third level symbolized Charley’s desire to escape from the modern world’s stress into a peaceful past.

Final Answer:

The third level was an imaginary platform at Grand Central, leading to the 1890s.

Quick Tip

Remember: The “third level” is symbolic, not real—it shows Charley’s escape from reality.

OR

Q11(b). What was the astrologer’s prediction about the Tiger King’s death?

Correct Answer: The astrologer predicted that the Maharaja would be killed by the hundredth tiger.

Solution:

Step 1: Prophecy.

At the time of the Tiger King’s birth, astrologers predicted his death would come from a tiger.

Step 2: Detailed warning.

The chief astrologer warned that the King should beware of the hundredth tiger.

Step 3: Significance.

This prophecy shaped the King’s life, leading him to hunt ninety-nine tigers.

Step 4: Conclusion.

Ironically, his death came not from a tiger, but from a wooden toy tiger—the hundredth tiger.

Final Answer:

The astrologer predicted that the Tiger King would die due to the hundredth tiger.

Quick Tip

Always highlight the “hundredth tiger” as the central point of the astrologer’s prediction.

Q12. Answer any one of the following questions in about 80 words:

(a) How is the study of Antarctica useful to us?

Solution:

The study of Antarctica is crucial for understanding global climate patterns and environmental changes. Antarctica holds key information about past climate conditions through its ice cores, which reveal the Earth's history over millions of years. By analyzing these ice layers, scientists can predict future climate trends, helping us prepare for potential environmental challenges. Additionally, Antarctica's unique ecosystem offers insights into how organisms adapt to extreme conditions. The region also plays a significant role in global ocean currents, which regulate weather patterns and the distribution of heat across the planet.

The study of Antarctica helps us understand climate, environment, and biological adaptations, all essential for our future.

Quick Tip

When answering questions related to scientific studies, focus on their global or long-term benefits and impacts.

Q12. (b) Who is Mr. Lamb? What type of garden does he have?

Solution:

Mr. Lamb is a kind, independent, and philosophical character from the story "The Garden" by D.H. Lawrence. He lives in a peaceful house with a beautiful garden that he tends to with great care. His garden is described as being full of different plants, including flowers, vegetables, and fruit trees. It symbolizes his deep connection with nature and his belief in the importance of nurturing life. Mr. Lamb's garden also represents his open-mindedness, as he welcomes all people and ideas into his world.

Mr. Lamb is a thoughtful man with a garden that symbolizes his love for nature and openness.

Quick Tip

When describing a character's garden, highlight how it reflects their personality, values, and interactions with the world.
