

CBSE Class 12 English Question Paper with Solutions(Memory Based)

Time Allowed :3 Hours	Maximum Marks :70	Total questions :37
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General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. Please check that this question paper contains 23 printed pages.
2. Q.P. Code given on the right hand side of the question paper should be written on the title page of the answer-book by the candidate.
3. Please check that this question paper contains 37 questions.
4. 15 minute time has been allotted to read this question paper. The question paper will be distributed at 10.15 a.m. From 10.15 a.m. to 10.30 a.m., the candidates will read the question paper only and will not write any answer on the answer-book during this period.

1. Why did the Mariner hold back the Wedding-Guest?

Solution:

Concept: This question is based on Samuel Taylor Coleridge's poem *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*. The poem explores themes of guilt, sin, punishment, and redemption. The Mariner stops the Wedding-Guest because he is compelled to share his tragic tale as a form of penance.

Answer: The Mariner held back the Wedding-Guest because he was burdened with the need to narrate his life-changing experience. After killing the albatross, he suffered terrible consequences and was doomed to wander the earth, telling his story repeatedly as a form of punishment and redemption. He stops certain people, like the Wedding-Guest, whom he instinctively knows must hear his tale. By sharing his story, he relieves his spiritual agony and teaches others the importance of loving all of God's creatures.

Explanation: The Mariner is driven by an inner compulsion to tell his story. His act of stopping the Wedding-Guest shows:

- His deep guilt and suffering after the crime.
- His need for spiritual relief through confession.
- The moral purpose of warning others against disrespecting nature and God's creation.

Quick Tip

In literature questions, connect the character's actions with themes like guilt, punishment, and redemption to give a complete answer.

2. What was the symbolic significance of the Albatross's death?

Solution:

Concept: In *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, the albatross is a powerful symbol. It represents nature, innocence, divine blessing, and harmony between humans and the natural world. Its death marks a turning point in the poem and carries deep moral and spiritual meaning.

Answer: The death of the albatross symbolises the Mariner's crime against nature and God. The bird had brought good luck to the sailors, guiding them safely through the icy seas. By killing it without reason, the Mariner breaks the natural and moral order. This act represents human arrogance and disrespect toward nature, leading to severe punishment and suffering.

Explanation: The symbolic significance of the albatross's death includes:

- **Sin against nature:** The killing shows thoughtless cruelty toward an innocent creature.
- **Loss of divine blessing:** The albatross was seen as a good omen, and its death removes God's protection.
- **Beginning of suffering:** After its death, the sailors face supernatural punishment and hardship.

- **Burden of guilt:** The dead albatross hung around the Mariner's neck symbolises his guilt and moral responsibility.

Quick Tip

In symbolic questions, explain both the literal event and its deeper meaning related to themes like nature, sin, and punishment.

3. Describe Helen's association with Alexander Graham Bell and its impact on her education.

Solution:

Concept: This question is based on the life of Helen Keller. Her association with Alexander Graham Bell played a crucial role in shaping her early education. Bell, known for his work with the deaf, guided her family toward the right support system that transformed her life.

Answer: Helen Keller's association with Alexander Graham Bell was highly significant in her educational journey. Bell was deeply interested in helping deaf children and met Helen when she was young. After interacting with her and her parents, he recognised her potential and advised them to seek proper training for her. He recommended the Perkins Institution for the Blind, which eventually led to the appointment of Anne Sullivan as Helen's teacher. This connection became the turning point in Helen's life, as Anne Sullivan's guidance enabled her to learn language and communicate with the world.

Explanation: The impact of Bell's association with Helen includes:

- **Guidance to the right institution:** Bell directed Helen's parents to the Perkins Institution for the Blind.
- **Arrival of Anne Sullivan:** His advice led to the selection of Anne Sullivan as Helen's teacher.
- **Beginning of formal education:** With proper guidance, Helen began structured learning.
- **Transformation of her life:** This support laid the foundation for Helen's success as a writer, speaker, and activist.

Quick Tip

When answering character-based questions, mention the person's role, the turning point they created, and the long-term impact on the main character.

4. On what conditions was Antony allowed to speak at Caesar's funeral?

Solution:

Concept: This question is based on William Shakespeare's play *Julius Caesar*. After Caesar's assassination, the conspirators allowed Antony to address the public, but only under strict conditions to prevent him from turning the crowd against them.

Answer: Antony was allowed to speak at Caesar's funeral on several conditions imposed by Brutus and the conspirators. He was permitted to speak only after Brutus had addressed the crowd and justified Caesar's murder. Antony had to agree not to blame the conspirators or speak against them directly. He was also required to declare that he spoke with the conspirators' permission. These conditions were meant to ensure that Antony would not incite the people against Brutus and the others.

Explanation: The main conditions were:

- **He would not criticize the conspirators:** Antony was not allowed to openly condemn Brutus and his allies.
- **He would speak after Brutus:** Brutus spoke first to influence the crowd in favor of the conspirators.
- **He must speak with their permission:** Antony had to mention that he was allowed to speak by the conspirators.
- **He could only praise Caesar:** His speech was expected to remain respectful and controlled.

Quick Tip

In drama-based questions, mention the context, the agreement between characters, and how it affects later events in the play.

5. Write an email in about 50 words to your Principal requesting the early commencement of winter uniform usage. Include a valid reason.

Solution:

Concept: A formal email to the Principal should be polite, concise, and clear. It must include a subject, respectful tone, a valid reason, and a proper closing.

Answer:

Subject: Request for Early Commencement of Winter Uniform

Respected Sir/Ma'am,

I kindly request permission to begin wearing the winter uniform earlier this year, as the weather has become unusually cold and many students are falling ill. Allowing winter uniforms now will help safeguard students' health.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours obediently, [Your Name]

Explanation: The email includes:

- A clear subject line.
- Polite and formal language.
- A valid reason (early cold weather affecting health).
- Proper closing and signature.

Quick Tip

In formal emails, keep the tone respectful, include a clear reason, and end with a polite closing like "Yours obediently" or "Yours sincerely."

6. Write an article on "Space Travel: Accessible Tourism or a Risky Adventure?" highlighting environmental impacts and safety concerns.

Solution:

Concept: An article should have a clear introduction, balanced discussion, and a thoughtful conclusion. This topic requires evaluating both the excitement of space tourism and the concerns related to environmental damage and human safety.

Answer:

Space Travel: Accessible Tourism or a Risky Adventure?

Space travel, once limited to astronauts, is now slowly entering the realm of tourism. Private companies are offering suborbital trips, making space seem like the next luxury destination. However, while the idea excites many, it raises important questions about environmental sustainability and safety.

One major concern is the environmental impact. Rocket launches release greenhouse gases and pollutants directly into the upper atmosphere, where they can have a stronger effect on climate change and even damage the ozone layer. Additionally, increasing space activity contributes to space debris, which threatens satellites and future missions. If space tourism grows rapidly, these environmental challenges may intensify.

Safety is another serious issue. Space travel involves extreme conditions, experimental technology, and high financial costs. Even minor technical failures can lead to catastrophic consequences. The lack of strong global regulations and evolving safety standards further increases the risks. Unlike conventional travel, rescue options in space are extremely limited.

Despite these concerns, supporters argue that space tourism inspires innovation and scientific progress. It may lead to technological advancements and a deeper appreciation for Earth's fragility. However, critics believe that until environmental damage is reduced and safety standards improve, space tourism remains more of a risky adventure than accessible tourism.

In conclusion, space travel represents a fascinating new frontier, but it is still surrounded by uncertainty. While it promises wonder and discovery, it must overcome serious environmental and safety challenges before becoming a truly sustainable and accessible form of tourism.

Explanation: The article includes:

- A balanced introduction presenting both sides.
- Discussion of environmental concerns (emissions and space debris).
- Focus on safety risks and limited regulations.

- A thoughtful conclusion weighing tourism vs. risk.

Quick Tip

For article writing, present both advantages and concerns, use clear paragraphs, and end with a balanced conclusion.

7. What contradictory thoughts did the poet have upon seeing the snake?

Solution:

Concept: This question refers to D.H. Lawrence's poem *Snake*. The poet experiences an inner conflict between his natural admiration for the snake and the socially taught fear and hostility toward it.

Answer: Upon seeing the snake, the poet experienced contradictory thoughts. On one hand, he felt a sense of fascination and respect for the snake's calm and dignified presence. He admired its beauty and considered it a noble creature. On the other hand, the voice of education and societal norms told him that the snake was dangerous and should be killed. This created an internal struggle between instinctive admiration and learned fear.

Explanation: The poet's conflicting thoughts can be understood as:

- **Admiration and respect:** He was mesmerized by the snake's grace and treated it like an honored guest.
- **Fear and social conditioning:** His upbringing taught him that snakes are harmful and must be attacked.
- **Moral conflict:** He felt guilty and confused, torn between his natural feelings and imposed beliefs.

Quick Tip

In poetry questions, highlight the poet's emotional conflict and connect it with themes like nature vs. social conditioning.