

CBSE Class 12 English Elective 2023 - Set 28

Question Paper

Conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)



Time Allowed: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions

- (i) This question paper contains 13 questions in three sections. All questions are compulsory, subject to the internal choices specified.
- (ii) Section A: Reading; Section B: Grammar and Writing; Section C: Literature and Fiction.
- (iii) Follow the separate instructions and choices given with each part and question.
- (iv) Do not exceed the word limits prescribed in the questions.

1. A Devoted Son

(1) Once upon a time, long long ago, a famous rishi, Vajasravasa, performed a very uncommon rite. According to the rule of that rite, the performer was required to give away all his wealth and possessions to the priest, the poor and other deserving people.

(2) The rishi had a young son called Nachiketa. Nachiketa thought that since his father had to give away everything, he would have to give him away too.

(3) So when the rishi was busy distributing his property among his guests, Nachiketa went up to him and asked, "Whom have you given me away to, Father?"

(4) The rishi did not reply. But his son kept repeating his question till, ultimately vexed, the rishi suddenly burst out, "I have given you away to Yama!"

(5) Yama is the fearful God of Death. The rishi's words must have astounded all those who were present. Even the rishi was shocked at his own words. Nachiketa alone stood unshaken. He thought: 'I have done nothing for which my father should wish me death. Perhaps, it has been decreed by fate that I should meet Yama.'

(6) Nachiketa prepared to set off for the domain of Yama. The rishi and the others tried to make him change his mind. But the boy was firm. "I must go and meet Yama," he said and left.

1. (continued)

(7) When Nachiketa reached his destination, Yama was not there. The boy had to pass three days and three nights without food or drink, waiting for him. Yama, on his return, was immensely pleased with the boy's courage and determination. He said, "For your three days of patient suffering, I will grant you three boons. What would you like?"

(8) Nachiketa said, "My father must be in great anxiety and sorrow since I left. O God of Death, grant that he gets back his peace of mind." Yama said, "It is done."

(9) Next, Nachiketa wanted to know the secret of how to get to heaven where there is no fear of old age or death. Yama gladly told him.

(10) Finally Nachiketa said, "Reveal to me O God, the mystery of death. What happens after death? And how does one become immortal?"

(11) Yama was in a fix. These were closely guarded secrets. None but the Supreme One and he had any knowledge of them. So Yama requested Nachiketa to ask for some other boon — for wealth, power or a kingdom. But Nachiketa did not yield to this temptation. So he had to answer Nachiketa's question. He taught the boy the difficulty of knowing the true self, the soul. Once he knew his true self he would know that death was nothing but an illusion for the soul, man's true self, never dies.

1. (continued)

(12) From the stories of the ancient scriptures we get glimpses of a system of education that prevailed long ago. A pupil lived with a guru in the forest, free of all obligations. He earnestly devoted himself to his studies. His education however was extended to philosophy, meditation and hard physical work. Thus, education from its very early times believed in holistic and all-round development of the young pupils.

Based on your reading of the passage, answer twelve out of the fifteen questions that follow:

1(i). What was unusual about the rite which was performed?

1(ii). What did Nachiketa think about his father when he was distributing all his possessions?

1(iii). Why did Nachiketa's father burst out at him?

1(iv). Why was the rishi shocked at his own words?

1(v). What was Nachiketa's destination?

1(vi). The boon Yama refused to grant to Nachiketa was:

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| (A) to restore his father his peace of mind | (B) to let him go back to his father |
| (C) to reveal to him the mystery of death | (D) how to go to heaven |

1(vii). Which statement is not true about Yama?

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| (A) He did not know the secret of death. | (B) He purposely avoided telling Nachiketa about what happens after death. |
| (C) He was ill-disposed towards Nachiketa. | (D) He was not annoyed at Nachiketa's childish queries. |

1(viii). Choose the word which is a synonym of the word 'astounded'. (Para 5)

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| (A) annoyed | (B) startled |
| (C) mystified | (D) miffed |

1(ix). Yama was pleased by Nachiketa's _____.

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| (A) wealth | (B) strong body |
| (C) courage and determination | (D) knowledge |

1(x). Why did Nachiketa wait for three days and three nights?

1(xi). "I have given you away to Yama," said the father. Change into indirect narration.

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| (A) The father pleaded that he wanted to give his son away. | (B) The father informed all about his giving away his son. |
| (C) The father said that he was giving him away to Yama. | (D) The father told his son that he had given him away to Yama. |

1(xii). The adverb form of 'patient' is:

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| (A) patience | (B) patiently |
| (C) impatiently | (D) impatient |

1(xiii). In ancient times, education was ____.

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| (A) holistic | (B) based on sports |
| (C) academics based | (D) only philosophical |

1(xiv). Yama was reluctant to answer Nachiketa's query about the mystery of Death and instead asked him to ask for other boons like:

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| (A) unlimited wealth | (B) immortality |
| (C) long marital bliss | (D) safe return to his father |

1(xv). In the ancient times, the pupils lived in their Guru's ashram ____.

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| (A) to remain away from their parents | (B) to learn the skill of warfare |
| (C) to receive all round education | (D) to prepare for their final examinations |

2. Based on your careful reading of the extract given below, answer any four out of the five questions that follow:

She dwelt among the untrodden ways
Beside the springs of Dove,
A Maid whom there were none to praise
And very few to love:
A violet by a mossy stone
Half hidden from the eye!
– Fair as a star, when only one
Is shining in the sky.
She lived, unknown, and few could know
When Lucy ceased to be;
But she in her grave, and oh,
The difference to me!

W. Wordsworth

2(i). Select the most suitable title for the above passage.

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| (A) Shining in the Sky | (B) The Lost Love |
| (C) A Violet by a Mossy Stone | (D) Springs of Dove |

2(ii). Explain the phrase 'untrodden ways'.

2(iii). Identify the figure of speech in 'A violet by a mossy stone'.

2(iv). What feelings has the poet expressed in the last two lines?

2(v). The most striking feature of the language is its ____, yet they produce a poem that has a magic charm.

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| (A) symbolism | (B) variance |
| (C) complexity | (D) simplicity |

3. Based on your careful reading of the passage, given below, answer any four out of the five questions that follow:

How Delhi University Grew over 100 Years (Case Study)

(1) Between its inception with three colleges and 750 students in 1922 to its 90 colleges and 86 departments today with over 6 lakh students from across India, the 100-year story of the University of Delhi is deeply intertwined with the history and evolution of the city itself.

(2) On Sunday (May 1, 2022), Delhi University marked the beginning of its Centennial celebrations. The idea of the University began taking shape in 1911 when it was decided to shift the capital of India to Delhi from Calcutta. The onset of World War-I, differences over the nature of the would-be university, and lack of funds kept the idea from coming to fruition for another 11 years.

(3) On January 16, 1922, the Delhi University Bill was introduced in the Imperial Legislative Assembly with the objective of establishing a unitary teaching and residential university in the capital of British India. At that time, Delhi had three arts colleges — St. Stephen's College, which was founded in 1882 by the Cambridge Mission, Hindu College which was founded in 1899, and Ramjas College which was founded in 1917 — and Lady Hardinge Medical College. These three colleges were to become the first constituent colleges of the University.

3(i). Ever since its inception there has been _____ expansion of Delhi University.

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| (A) staggering | (B) phenomenal |
| (C) marvellous | (D) splendid |

3(ii). Initially the establishment of Delhi University was proposed to _____ with the shifting of the capital from Calcutta to Delhi in 1911.

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| (A) coincide | (B) continue |
| (C) expand | (D) flourish |

3(iii). To begin with, there were three colleges to become _____ colleges of the University.

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| (A) affiliated | (B) constituent |
| (C) attached | (D) recognised |

3(iv). The word 'inception' means _____.

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| (A) birth | (B) continue |
| (C) beginning | (D) opening |

3(v). Which of the following reasons was not true in the delay of establishment of Delhi University for 11 years?

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| (A) Onset of World War-I | (B) Shifting of the capital to Delhi |
| (C) Lack of funds | (D) Viceroy's consent |

4. Rewrite the sentences according to the instructions given after each one. Attempt any eight out of the ten questions that follow:

4(a). Rewrite the sentence according to the instruction given:

He is very arrogant. All other members of his family are also very arrogant.

(Combine by using 'as well as')

4(b). Rewrite the sentence according to the instruction given:

Keep the dog tied indoors. It may bite some stranger.

(Combine by using 'else')

4(c). Rewrite the sentence according to the instruction given:

A stone struck me on the head.

(Change the voice)

4(d). Rewrite the sentence according to the instruction given:

The teacher said, "Be quiet students."

(Change into indirect speech)

4(e). Rewrite the sentence according to the instruction given:

The traveller enquired of the farmer if he could tell him the way to the nearest hotel.

(Change into direct speech)

4(f). Rewrite the sentence according to the instruction given:

I have lose a ten-rupees note.

(Correct and re-write)

4(g). Rewrite the sentence according to the instruction given:

I could not get my seat reserved, I managed a comfortable journey.

(Begin: Although ...)

4(h). Rewrite the sentence according to the instruction given:

She is not fair. She is not tall. She is highly intelligent.

(Combine into a single sentence)

4(i). Rewrite the sentence according to the instruction given:

He used force to turn the beggar out of his house.

(Use the adverb form of 'force')

4(j). Rewrite the sentence according to the instruction given:

The boy saw his mistake. He grew nervous.

(Begin: On seeing ...)

5(a). Keeping a city clean is a joint responsibility of the community as well as the Government. Write your views in about 120 - 150 words on the topic 'Cleanliness – Whose responsibility?' to be published in a local magazine. You are Satish/Surabhi.

5(b). Rome was not built in one day, goes the saying. For achieving success in life one has to work ceaselessly over a considerable period of time. Write an article in 120 - 150 words to be published in a reputed journal highlighting the lessons to be learnt from this age-old saying.

5(c). 'Competition is essential to progress.' Express your views in 120 - 150 words for or against the topic. You are Alok/Akshita.

5(d). Excessive use of the mobile phones tells upon the health of the people. Write in 120 - 150 words, how to use mobile phones prudently.

6(a). The Community Service Club of your school organized a day-long visit to a senior citizen home in the city. 25 students along with a teacher went and interacted with the residents. The students put up a cultural performance for them. As President of the club, write a report of the visit in 120 - 150 words, to be published in the school magazine. You are Udit/Udita.

OR

6(b). Putting restrictions on social media can prove counterproductive. Prepare a speech in 120 - 150 words expressing your views on this sensitive matter.

OR

7(I)(A). Attempt any one of the two extracts (A) and (B) given below:

(A) Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

The evening deepened in the avenue. The white of two letters in her lap grew indistinct. One was to Harry; the other was to her father. Ernest had been her favourite but she liked Harry too. Her father was becoming old lately, she noticed; he would miss her. Sometimes he could be very nice. Not long before, when she had been laid up for a day, he had read her out a ghost story and made toast for her at the fire.

7(I)(A)(i). Who is being talked about here?

7(I)(A)(ii). How did her father treat her when she had fallen ill?

7(I)(A)(iii). Who was her favourite sibling?

7(I)(A)(iv). To whom were the letters addressed?

7(I)(A)(v). What did she observe about her father?

7(I)(A)(vi). Which word can be a synonym for 'laid up'?

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| (A) on leave | (B) absent |
| (C) dismissed | (D) fallen sick |

7(I)(B). **(B)** Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

Men who had no regard for Jewishness wore skullcaps; and reverend rabbis and cantors aped the Christian ministers. Whenever he took Gretl to a wedding or Bar Mitzvah, he was ashamed. Even she, born a Christian, could see that American Judaism was a mess. At least this time he would be spared the trouble of making apologies to her.

7(I)(B)(i). Why did Gretl not like the idea of attending Jewish weddings?

7(I)(B)(ii). What was Gretl's religion?

7(I)(B)(iii). Why did Margolin feel ashamed?

7(I)(B)(iv). What made American Judaism a mess?

7(I)(B)(v). Why did Dr. Margolin have to apologize?

7(I)(B)(vi). Which word can act as a synonym for 'aped'?

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| (A) synchronized | (B) imitated |
| (C) cloned | (D) photocopy |

7(II)(A). Attempt any one of the two extracts (A) and (B) given below:

(A) Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

Then every man, of every clime,
That prays in his distress,
Prays to the human form divine,
Love, Mercy, Pity, Peace.
And all must love the human form,
In heathen, Turk or Jew,
Where, Mercy, Love and Pity dwell,
There God is dwelling too.

7(II)(A)(i). How does a man in distress call to humanity?

7(II)(A)(ii). What is meant by the human form divine?

7(II)(A)(iii). Why is it necessary to maintain human form?

7(II)(A)(iv). How does God dwell in the company of these virtues?

7(II)(A)(v). When do people pray for mercy, pity, peace and love?

7(II)(A)(vi). What is the synonym of 'dwell'?

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|---------------|-------------|
| (A) survive | (B) subsist |
| (C) accompany | (D) live |

OR

7(II)(B). **(B)** Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

What needs my Shakespeare for his honour'd
Bones,
The labour of an age in piled Stones,
Or that his hallow'd reliques should be hid
Under a stary pointing Pyramid?
Dear son of Memory, great heir of Fame,
What need'st thou such weak witnes of thy name?
Thou in our wonder and astonishment
Hast built thy self a live-long Monument.

7(II)(B)(i). What phrase has been used for the monument?

7(II)(B)(ii). What is meant by 'honour'd Bones'?

7(II)(B)(iii). What are hallow'd reliques?

7(II)(B)(iv). Where are 'stary pointing pyramids'?

7(II)(B)(v). How is Shakespeare a dear son of memory?

7(II)(B)(vi). What is the synonym of 'piled'?

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| (A) hoarded | (B) accumulated |
| (C) assembled | (D) congregated |

8(a). Answer in 30 - 40 words.

How did the shadow before noon differ from the shadows in the afternoon?

8(b). Answer in 30 - 40 words.

What is the significance of the gold ring and the emerald eyes of Frau Frieda?

9(a). Answer in 50 - 60 words.

Describe briefly Dr. Margolin's past life as revealed in the lesson 'A Wedding in Brownsville'.

9(b). Answer in 50 - 60 words.

What is the contrast between the liveliness of the swans and human life?

10(a). Answer in 120 - 150 words.

Do you agree with the author's view that the novel reflects the wholeness of a human being?

10(b). Answer in 120 - 150 words.

Do you think Rabindranath Tagore tries to portray injustice of distinctions based on the accident of human birth?

11(a). Answer in 30 - 40 words.

What is the subject-matter of Dr. Pal's book?

11(b). Answer in 30 - 40 words.

Describe the hot words exchanged between Margayya and Arul Doss.

11(c). Answer in 30 - 40 words.

Who engaged Jaggu? What was he supposed to do in the film?

11(d). Answer in 30 - 40 words.

Describe the Collector's attitude towards the villagers who approached him for help.

12(a). Answer in 50 - 60 words.

Why did Margayya sell his share of the book publishing to Madan Lal?

12(b). Answer in 50 - 60 words.

What problem did Margayya face by the loss of his accounts book?

12(c). Answer in 50 - 60 words.

What arrangements did Swamiji make for Raja after he became too old?

12(d). Answer in 50 - 60 words.

Which animals teased the tiger when he was living in his cave?

13(a). Answer in 120 - 150 words.

Do you consider 'The Financial Expert' a skilful blending of realism and fantasy? Give reasons for your answer.

13(b). Answer in 120 - 150 words.

Bring out the comic traits of Margayya's character.

13(c). Answer in 120 - 150 words.

'A Tiger for Malgudi' uniquely combines the elusive, timeless quality of a hindu legend with the comic version by R.K. Narayan. Explain.

13(d). Answer in 120 - 150 words.

In the introduction to his novel, 'A Tiger for Malgudi', R.K. Narayan reveals how he was inspired to write a book when he met a hermit with his companion, a tiger, during the Kumbh Mela festival. Explain.

- End of Question Paper -