

English
Class 12th
Section C

Text Book Poetry

1. Read the given extract and answer the questions.

*But after the airport's
security check, standing a few yards
away, I looked again at her, wan,
pale
as a late winter's moon and felt that
old
familiar ache, my childhood's fear,
but all I said was, see you soon,
Amma,
All I did was smile and smile and smile-----*

- (a) Choose the correct option: 1
In the above extract the poetess feels:
(i) satisfied (ii) fearful (iii) nostalgic (iv) regretful
- (b) Identify the word in the extract that means 'colourless'. 1
- (c) Complete the following analogy with correct figure of speech: 1
She sang like a bird : Simile.
All I did was smile and smile and smile:
- (d) Read the following statements and choose the correct option: 1
(i) The poet had gone through the security check.
(ii) She did not want to look at her mother.
1. (i) is true but (ii) is false
2. (i) is false but (ii) is true
3. Both (i) and (ii) are true
4. Both (i) and (ii) are false.
- (e) Which childhood fear is the poet referring to? 1
- (f) Fill in the blank with an appropriate word with reference to the extract - 1
Pale as a winter 's moon suggests

2. Read the given extract and answer the questions.

*I saw my mother,
beside me,
doze, open mouthed, her face
ashen like that
of a corpse and realized with pain
that she was as old as she
looked but soon
put that thought away,
and looked out at Young
Trees sprinting, the merry children spilling
out of their homes.*

- (a) In the above extract, how does the poetess describe her mother? 1

- (i) Merrily accompanying her on the journey
- (ii) Sleeping calmly beside her
- (iii) Pale, old and as lifeless as a dead body
- (iv) Young like children
- (b) Why are the children described as “merry” in the above stanza? 1
 - (i) because they are young and full of energy.
 - (ii) because they are not studying and enjoying life.
 - (iii) because they left their houses.
 - (iv) because writer was departing at the moment.
- (c) Why does the poetess feel pain in the above stanza? 1
- (d) Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract? 1
 - (a) Life is short and one must enjoy it (b) Ageing and Mortality
 - (c) Sleeping and Playing (d) Art of Parenting
- (e) Which of the following best describes the poetess’s state of mind? 1
 - (i) Concerned and gloomy
 - (ii) Indifferent and disturbed
 - (iii) Frightened and tensed
 - (iv) Careless and childish
- (f) Why does the poetess bring in the image of 'trees sprinting' and 'merry children spilling'? 1

3. Read the given extract and answer the questions.

What I want should not be
 Confused with total inactivity.
 Life is what it is about;
 I want no truck with death.
 If we were not so single-minded
 about keeping our lives moving,
 and for once could do nothing,
 perhaps a huge silence
 might interrupt this sadness
 of never understanding ourselves
 and of threatening ourselves with death.

- (i) What is the main difference between "keeping our lives moving" and "doing nothing"? 1
 - a) The speaker prefers constant motion over stillness.
 - b) The speaker suggests that doing nothing might bring clarity and peace.
 - c) The speaker argues that movement and activity are essential for life.
 - d) The speaker believes that doing nothing leads to confusion and chaos
- (ii) Do you agree that silence can help break the sadness of self-doubt and confusion? 1
 - a) Yes, because silence allows for introspection and deeper understanding.
 - b) No, because silence would make the sadness worse.
 - c) Yes, but only if one is already content with his life.
 - d) No, because it would lead to even greater feelings of isolation.

(iii) Assertion: The speaker believes that taking time to do nothing and embrace silence can help people understand themselves better.

Reason: The speaker suggests that constant activity and movement often lead to confusion and self-doubt. 1

Which of the following options is most accurate?

- a) Both the assertion and reason are true, and the reason correctly explains the assertion.
- b) Both the assertion and reason are true, but the reason does not explain the assertion.
- c) The assertion is true, but the reason is false.
- d) The assertion is false, but the reason is true.

(iv) How does the speaker use the idea of "doing nothing" to suggest a deeper understanding of life? What role does silence play in this context? 1

(v) Do you think the speaker's idea of embracing stillness and silence can truly help in understanding oneself better, or would it lead to more confusion? Justify your answer. 1

(vi) What is the meaning of the word "inactivity" as used in the context of the poem? 1

a) Movement b) Silence c) Stillness d) Action

4. Read the given extract and answer the questions.

If we were not so single-minded
about keeping our lives moving,
and for once could do nothing,
perhaps a huge silence
might interrupt this sadness
of never understanding ourselves
and of threatening ourselves with death.

- (i) Write the name of the poem and the poet. 1
- (ii) What does the expression 'single-minded' refer to? 1
- (iii) How can 'huge silence' help human beings? 1

Direction : In following questions choose the correct option and write in your answer book

(iv) Why does the poet ask us to do nothing for once? 1

- a. To put our mind at peace
- b. For self-introspection
- c. Give time to others
- d. Both (I) and (II)

(v) What is the 'Sadness' that the poet refers to in the poem? 1

- a. Sad due to inactivity
- b. Sad to be together
- c. Sad due to not understanding oneself
- d. Sad to be controlled by others

(vi) Which word in the stanza means 'frightening'? 1

a. Threatening b. Moving c. Keeping d. Interrupting

5. Read the given extract and answer the questions.

*Its loveliness increases, it will never
 Pass into nothingness; but will keep
 A bower quiet for us, and a sleep
 Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing.*

- (a) What is the poet referring to in the above stanza? 1
- (i) The charm of beautiful women
 - (ii) His mother
 - (iii) The journey of adulthood
 - (iv) The beauty of nature and other beautiful things
- (b) According to the poet, the beauty of nature is eternal. What deeper message does this convey? 1
- (i) Beauty is momentary and fades over time
 - (ii) Beautiful things provide comfort, peace, and inspiration forever.
 - (iii) Sleep is the only way to experience true peace.
 - (iv) Dreams are more important than reality
- (c) State whether given statement is True/False 1
- According to the poet, beauty leads to sadness and pain.
- (d) As bower is to shade as beauty is to _____? 1
- (i) Peace and comfort.
 - (ii) Fear
 - (iii) Exhaustion.
 - (iv) Sleep
- (e) What is the tone of poet in the given stanza? 1
- (i) Pessimistic and sad
 - (ii) Hopeful and appreciative
 - (iii) Fearful and anxious
 - (iv) Angry and frustrated
- (f) Which literary device is used in “A bower quiet for us”? 1
- (i) Simile
 - (ii) Metaphor
 - (iii) Alliteration
 - (iv) Hyperbole

6. Read the given extract and answer the questions

Rich with a sprinkling of fair musk-rose blooms:
 And such too is the grandeur of the dooms
 We have imagined for the mighty dead;
 An endless fountain of immortal drink,
 Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink.

- (a) The poet refers to **musk rose blooms** to symbolize: 1
- (i) The fleeting nature of happiness
 - (ii) The strength of great warriors
 - (iii) The everlasting beauty in the world
 - (iv) The loneliness of human life

- (b) According to the stanza, where does the “immortal drink” come from? 1
- (i) The earth’s core
 - (ii) The depths of the ocean
 - (iii) Heaven’s brink
 - (iv) A mystical forest
- (c) The poet describes beauty as an “endless fountain”, which means it is _____ and never ending. 1
- (i) Fickle
 - (ii) Eternal
 - (iii) External
 - (iv) Internal
- (d) State whether the given statement is True or False. 1
- The phrase “mighty dead” refers to common people in society.
- (e) Pick the correct option to justify- 1
- Assertion (A):** The poet describes beauty as an “endless fountain of immortal drink”.
Reason (R): Beauty is momentary and fades away with time.
- (i) Both A and R are true, and R correctly explains A.
 - (ii) Both A and R are true, but R does not explain A.
 - (iii) A is true, but R is false.
 - (iv) A is false, but R is true.
- (f) The rhyming scheme of the given stanza is- 1
- (i) ababc
 - (ii) aabcc
 - (iii) aabbcc
 - (iv) abbcc

7. Read the given extract and answer the questions.

No, in country money, the country scale of gain,
 The requisite lift of spirit has never been found,
 Or so the voice of country seems to complain,
 I can't help owning the great relief it would be
 To put these people at one stroke out of their pain.

- (a) Whom does the poet want to put out of stroke? 1
- (i) Poor and under privileged people
 - (ii) Rich politicians
 - (iii) Common people
 - (iv) Farmers and peasants
- (b) What does the “country scale of gain” refer to in the stanza? 1
- (i) The measurement of financial success in rural area.
 - (ii) The balance between morality and profit
 - (iii) The economic struggle of country side
 - (iv) The weight of physical labor in village
- (c) What is the tone of last two lines of the stanza? 1
- (i) Sympathetic
 - (ii) Indifferent
 - (iii) Sarcastic
 - (iv) Hopeful

- (d) What does the phrase “**the requisite lift of spirit**” suggest? 1
- A need for financial prosperity
 - A lack of emotional and moral motivation
 - A desire for education
 - A push towards industrialization
- (e) Pick the correct option to justify 1
- Assertion (A):** The speaker believes that rural life lacks financial prosperity and emotional upliftment.
- Reason (R):** The "country scale of gain" does not provide the necessary motivation or spirit.
- Both A and R are true, and R correctly explains A.
 - Both A and R are true, but R does not explain A.
 - A is true, but R is false.
 - A is false, but R is true.
- (f) What message does the poet want to convey through the poem ‘The Roadside Stand’? 1

8. Read the given extract and answer the questions.

*Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen,
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green,
They do not fear the men beneath the tree,
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty,*

- “Denizens of a world of green” refer to----- 1
 - huntsmen
 - Aunt Jennifer
 - uncle
 - tigers
- Choose the option that displays the same poetic device as used in the second line of the extract. 1
 - Heart of stone
 - Trees sprouting
 - Silver spoon
 - White murder
- Complete the following sentence suitably- 1

The men sitting beneath the trees are symbol of
- The tigers in the extract are symbol of- 1
 - Creativity and courage
 - confidence and gentleness
 - Cruelty and fear
 - aggression and starvation
- Aunt Jennifer's tigers are prancing across: 1
 - the screen
 - the field
 - the embroidered tunic
 - the cage

Which of the following is the most appropriate choice?

 - (1) and (2)
 - (2) and (3)
 - (1) , (2) and (3)
 - (1) and (3)
- Why do the tigers pace in ‘chivalric certainty’ according to you? 1

9. Read the given extract and answer the questions.

*Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool
Find even the ivory needle hard to pull.
The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band
Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.*

- In Adrienne Rich's poem "Aunt Jennifer's Tigers," the phrase "The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band" most likely symbolizes: 1

 - Aunt Jennifer's financial struggles.

- (ii) The emotional and societal burden of her marriage.
 - (iii) The value of the wedding band as a cherished possession.
 - (iv) Aunt Jennifer's inability to complete her needlework.
- (b) What is the effect of the "massive weight of Uncle's wedding band" in the poem, and what does it suggest about the cause of Aunt Jennifer's struggles? 1
- (i) Effect: Aunt Jennifer becomes physically frail; Cause: The passage of time and ageing.
 - (ii) Effect: Aunt Jennifer feels burdened and constrained; Cause: The oppressive nature of her marriage.
 - (iii) Effect: Aunt Jennifer abandons her needlework; Cause: A lack of artistic skill.
 - (iv) Effect: Aunt Jennifer's independence is celebrated; Cause: Her marriage provides emotional support.
- (c) What is the meaning of the word "fluttering" as used in the context of the poem? 1
- (i) Soaring (ii) Trembling (iii) Weaving (iv) Grasping
- (d) The rhyme scheme of these lines is- 1
- (i) abcd
 - (ii) abab
 - (iii) abca
 - (iv) aabb
- (e) Which quality of the uncle's nature can be inferred through these lines? 1
- (i) Compassion (ii) Courage (iii) Confidence (iv) Domination
- (f) What do you infer about married life of Aunt Jennifer? 1

Short Answer Questions

- (i) Reflect in brief on the key lesson learnt from the poem 'Keeping Quiet'? 2
- (ii) Identify the reason or reasons why human beings cherish life despite facing hardships and sufferings. 2
- (iii) How can counting up to twelve and keeping still lead to deeper self-awareness and harmony? 2
- (iv) Relate 'mighty dead' to a 'thing of beauty', and how does this enhance the poem's deeper meaning? 2
- (v) In your opinion, why do people sell things near the roadside, and how should they be treated? 2
- (vi) Compare briefly feelings of Kamla Das for her mother with those you have for your mother. 2
- (vii) Do we experience things of beauty only for a short moment or do they make a lasting impression on us? 2
- (viii) Analyse the symbols and poetic devices employed in the poem 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers'. 2
- (ix) How effectively does John Keats use the idea of beauty in "A Thing of Beauty" to show its lasting effect on human life and the human spirit? 2
- (x) Explain the use of imagery in 'My mother at Sixty-Six' exploring the themes of ageing and emotional bond between mother and child? 2

Long Answer Questions

- (i) Examine use of contrasting imagery in My Mother at Sixty-Six to depict the fleeting nature of youth and the inevitability of old age and what impact does this contrast have on the reader's understanding of the mother-daughter relationship? 5
- (ii) 'A Thing of Beauty' and 'A Roadside Stand' are poetic expressions of human relationships. The first engages with nature while the latter highlights the individual's place in society. Illustrate with reference to the two poems. 5

- (iii) Reflect on how the poem *Keeping Quiet*, encourages self-reflection and a deeper connection with humanity, and in what ways can silence help individuals and societies overcome divisions, conflicts, and restlessness? 5
- (iv) Reflect on how the roadside stand serves as a metaphor highlighting the struggles of the poor, also throw light on your perception of economic inequality and human dignity with reference to the poem 'A Roadside Stand'. 5
- (v) Aunt Jennifer's tigers serve as a symbol of her inner desires and unfulfilled aspirations. Justify this statement. What does the poem reveal about societal expectations and gender roles? 5