

English

Class 12th

Section C

Text Book Literature

Passage 1

Read the given extract and answer the questions that follow-

"Why do you do this?" I ask Saheb whom I encounter every morning scrounging for gold in the garbage dumps of my neighbourhood. Saheb left his home long ago. Set amidst the green fields of Dhaka, his home is not even a distant memory. There were many storms that swept away their fields and homes, his mother tells him. That's why they left, looking for gold in the big city where he now lives. "I have nothing else to do," he mutters, looking away. "Go to school," I say glibly, realizing immediately how hollow the advice must sound. 'There is no school in my neighbourhood. When they build one, I will go.'

- a) Who was Saheb? 1
- b) What does the expression 'scrounging for gold' refer to? 1
- c) Where has Saheb come from? 1
- d) Why does the author's advice sound hollow? 1
- e) Complete the following sentence suitably. 1

The expression '**when they build one, I will go**' indicates Saheb ____ to go to school.

- f) Why did Saheb's family leave their home? 1

Passage 2

Read the given extract and answer the questions that follow-

Their spontaneous demonstration, in thousands, around the courthouse was the beginning of their liberation from fear of the British. The officials felt powerless without Gandhi's cooperation. He helped them regulate the crowd. He was polite and friendly. He was giving them concrete proof that their might, hitherto dreaded and unquestioned, could be challenged by Indians. The government was baffled. The prosecutor requested the judge to postpone the trial. Apparently, the authorities wished to consult their superiors.

- (a) What does the phrase "liberation from fear of the British" suggest in the passage? 1
 - (i) The British willingly granted freedom.
 - (ii) Indians began to realise they could resist British rule.
 - (iii) The British officials became more oppressive.
 - (iv) The Indians sought military help to fight the British.
- (b) Why did the officials feel powerless without Gandhi's cooperation? 1
 - (i) Gandhi controlled the entire legal system.
 - (ii) The British government had already surrendered.
 - (iii) The people trusted Gandhi's leadership and followed his guidance.
 - (iv) The British officers were inexperienced in handling large crowds.

- (c) What can be inferred about Gandhi's approach to resistance? 1
- (i) He used violence to overthrow British rule.
 - (ii) He believed in organised protest and non-violent methods.
 - (iii) He avoided direct confrontation with the British.
 - (iv) He worked secretly to weaken the British.
- (d) Pick the correct option to justify : 1
- Assertion (A):** Gandhi was hostile and aggressive toward the British officials.
Reason (R): He was polite and friendly while proving that British authority could be questioned.
- (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.
- (e) Who helped the government to regulate the crowd? 1
- (f) Select a word from the passage for 'the act of delaying something'. 1

Passage 3

Read the given extract and answer the questions that follow:

Then, from one thing to another, M. Hamel went on to talk of the French language, saying that it was the most beautiful language in the world - the clearest, the most logical; that we must guard it among us and never forget it, because when a people are enslaved, as long as they hold fast to their language it is as if they had the key to their prison. Then he opened a grammar and read us our lesson. I was amazed to see how well I understood it.

- (a) Why did M. Hamel call the French language "the key to their prison"? 1
- (i) It helped them to communicate with others.
 - (ii) It is a symbol of their identity and freedom.
 - (iii) It helps them to secure better jobs.
 - (iv) It makes learning other languages easier.
- (b) What emotion is reflected in M. Hamel's speech about the French language? 1
- (i) Indifference
 - (ii) Pride and Sorrow
 - (iii) Anger and Hatred
 - (iv) Happiness and Excitement
- (c) What does the narrator's amazement at understanding the grammar lesson suggest? 1
- (i) He always found grammar easy.
 - (ii) He regretted not paying attention earlier.
 - (iii) M. Hamel was a very strict teacher.
 - (iv) The lesson was simpler than usual.
- (d) Why do you think the narrator understood the lesson so well? 1
- (e) Pick the option to justify: 1
- Assertion (A):** M. Hamel emphasized the importance of the French language.
Reason (R): He believed that holding onto their language would help them preserve their identity despite being conquered.
- (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) Which character trait of Hamel emerges from the extract?

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Passage 4

Read the given extract and answer the questions that follow-

Even in the matter of education, specially formal education, Subbu couldn't have had an appreciable lead over our boy. But by virtue of being born a Brahmin - a virtue, indeed! - he must have had exposure to more affluent situations and people. He had the ability to look cheerful at all times even after having had a hand in a flop film.

- (a) What does the phrase “**a virtue, indeed!**” suggest in the context of Subbu being a Brahmin? 1
- (i) It highlights Subbu’s hard work.
 - (ii) It sarcastically implies that Subbu’s social status gave him an advantage.
 - (iii) It shows Subbu’s dedication to his work.
 - (iv) It suggests that Subbu was naturally talented.
- (b) What quality of Subbu is emphasized in the last line of the passage? 1
- (i) His ability to manipulate people.
 - (ii) His optimistic and cheerful nature.
 - (iii) His natural acting talent.
 - (iv) His connection with influential people.
- (c) “**A virtue, indeed!**” is to **sarcasm** as “**What a pleasant day!**” (on a stormy day) is to 1
- _____.
- (i) Irony
 - (ii) Metaphor
 - (iii) Hyperbole
 - (iv) Pun
- (d) Pick the correct option to justify : 1
- Assertion (A):** Subbu always remained cheerful, even after working in a flop film.
- Reason (R):** Subbu had a positive attitude and believed that failure was a part of life.
- (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.
- (e) According to the passage, why did Subbu have an edge over others? 1
- (f) Fill in the blank with suitable word: 1

The office boy appears to be a _____ man as he could not acquire any good position.

- (i) unhappy (ii) excited (iii) frustrated (iv) desperate

Short Answer Questions

- 1) Why do you think the first chapter of the book Flamingo has been titled ‘The Last lesson’? 2
- 2) William Douglas took professional help from a swimming instructor to overcome his fear. Do you think seeking help for fears or mental health issues is a sign of weakness or strength? Justify. 2

- 3) Why do you think the author highlights two different situations of child labor — Saheb working in a tea stall and Mukesh working in a glass factory? What does the author want to convey by showing these two contrasting lives? 2
- 4) Why did the peddler leave the rattrap and money as a gift for Edla? What does it symbolize? 2
- 5) Gandhiji refused to take help from lawyers to fight the case. Why do you think he chose to represent the farmers himself? 2
- 6) What work did the office boy do in the Gemini studio? Why did he join the studio? Why was he disappointed? 2
- 7) Why does the author humorously mention 'Pancake' in the title of the story? What is the hidden satire behind it? 2
- 8) The author calls interviews “thumbprints on his windpipe.” What do you understand by this metaphor? 2
- 9) Why do you think Sophie constantly lives in an imaginary world? 2
- 10) How does Anees Jung show the exploitation of children in Saheb and Mukesh's stories, and what social issues keep them poor? 2
- 11) What does "Deep Water" teach us about how childhood experiences shape fears and how they are eventually overcome? 2
- 12) How does the character of Sophie in "Going Places" reflect on the themes of youthful dreams and the gap between fantasy and reality? 2

Long Answer Questions

1. Justify how the chapter “The Last Lesson” conveys a strong message of patriotism and language preservation. 5
2. Why do you think William Douglas remembered the drowning experience from childhood for so many years? Do you think childhood traumas have a lasting impact on a person’s life? Justify your answer. 5
3. The title of the chapter is ***“Lost Spring.”*** Why do you think the author uses the word *“Lost”* to describe the spring of children like Saheb and Mukesh? Justify the significance of the title. 5
4. Do you think poverty is the real reason behind the peddler’s criminal acts, or was it his mindset? Justify. 5
5. Do you think Gandhiji's approach of non-violence, negotiation, and empowerment would still work in today's world? Justify your opinion with examples. 5
6. The chapter **“Poets and Pancakes”** highlights the struggle of writers and creative people in the film industry. Do you think creative freedom still exists in cinema today? 5
7. Interviews can make or break a person’s reputation. Elaborate this statement with reference to the chapter ‘The Interview’. 5
8. How is Sophie’s fascination with Danny Casey similar to many teenagers’ obsession with celebrities today? 5
9. Imagine Gandhi was to deliver a speech to students in present day India showing them the path to becoming responsible world leaders. Based on your understanding of Gandhi's own leadership skills, write a speech, as Gandhi, addressing the students about the qualities that every leader and politician should nurture. 5

10. Escapism means 'the tendency to seek distraction and relief from unpleasant realities, especially through entertainment or engaging in fantasy'. Evaluate this statement on the basis of your reading of the stories 'Going Places' and 'The Rattrap'. 5
11. The lesson 'The Rattrap' is both entertaining and philosophical. Do you agree with the statement? Give reasons. 5
12. Desire, determination and diligence lead to success. Analyse these qualities in light of Douglas' experience in 'Deep Water'. 5
13. How would you feel and what would you think if someone told you that today is your last chance to learn something in your native language, just like Franz felt in 'The Last Lesson'? Describe. 5
14. Imagine the peddler decides to write his autobiography many years after the events of 'The Rattrap.' What would be the title of his book, and how would he describe the key moments that changed him, especially how Edla Willmansson influenced him? 5