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AGRA REGION



# English Core

Class XI

— 2026-27 —

✦ Student Support Material ✦



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## **Class-11**

### **SUBJECT–ENGLISH CORE**

#### **Comprehension Passages**

##### **Passage 1:**

**Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.**

In today's fast-paced world, success is often measured by wealth, power, and achievements. While these accomplishments are important, they do not always reflect the true character of a person. Moral values such as honesty, kindness, respect, empathy, and responsibility are the qualities that shape an individual's personality and earn lasting trust. They influence not only personal decisions but also the way people interact with family, friends, colleagues, and society.

Ethics refers to the principles that help individuals distinguish between right and wrong. Unlike rules imposed by others, ethical behaviour often depends on one's conscience. A student who refuses to cheat during an examination, even when no one is watching, demonstrates integrity. Similarly, a shopkeeper who returns excess money to a customer, despite having the opportunity to keep it, shows honesty. Such actions may appear small, but they strengthen the foundation of a fair and trustworthy society.

Moral values are not learned from textbooks alone. They develop through observation, experience, and the influence of parents, teachers, and role models. Stories, community service, teamwork, and everyday interactions teach lessons that remain meaningful throughout life. Young people who practise compassion, fairness, and self-discipline become more capable of handling challenges with maturity and confidence.

However, ethical choices are not always easy. Individuals may sometimes face situations where honesty leads to temporary loss or where kindness is misunderstood as weakness. In such moments, character is tested more than intelligence or talent. Choosing the right path often requires courage, patience, and the willingness to accept short-term difficulties for long-term respect and self-respect.

A society flourishes when its citizens value integrity above personal gain. Technological progress and economic growth certainly improve living standards, but they cannot replace the importance of trust, justice, and compassion. Every honest decision, every respectful action, and every act of kindness contributes to building stronger relationships and a more responsible community. Ultimately, moral values are not merely ideals to be admired—they are habits that must be practised consistently in everyday life.

##### **QUESTIONS:**

1. According to the passage, what truly reflects a person's character? 1m
- a) Wealth and fame
  - b) Moral values and ethical behaviour
  - c) Academic qualifications
  - d) Physical appearance
2. What does the passage suggest about ethics? 1m
- a) Ethics are based only on laws.
  - b) Ethics help people distinguish between right and wrong.
  - c) Ethics are important only in schools.
  - d) Ethics change according to success.
3. Which example of ethical behaviour is mentioned in the passage? 1m
- a) Winning every competition.
  - b) Returning excess money to a customer.
  - c) Avoiding difficult situations.
  - d) Completing work quickly.
4. According to the passage, moral values are mainly developed through: 1m
- a) Textbooks alone.
  - b) Observation, experience, and positive influences.
  - c) Watching television.
  - d) Memorising rules.
5. Why is refusing to cheat during an examination considered an act of integrity? 1m
6. How do parents and teachers contribute to the development of moral values? 2m
7. Why can ethical choices sometimes be difficult to make? 2m
8. Find a word from the passage that means "the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles." 1m

## **ANSWERS**

### **Passage 1**

#### **MCQs**

- 1. b) Moral values and ethical behaviour
- 2. b) Ethics help people distinguish between right and wrong
- 3. b) Returning excess money to a customer
- 4. b) Observation, experience, and positive influences

### Other Answers

5. Because it shows honesty even when no one is watching.
6. By acting as role models and guidance.
7. Because honesty may involve temporary loss.
8. Integrity

### Passage 2:

**Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.**

In recent years, the idea of citizen science has gained popularity across the world. Citizen science refers to the active participation of ordinary people in scientific research. Instead of limiting scientific investigations to laboratories and professional researchers, many projects now encourage students, teachers, farmers, birdwatchers, and local communities to collect and share useful information. Their observations help scientists study large geographical areas and gather data that would otherwise take years to collect.

Environmental conservation is one field where citizen science has proved especially valuable. Volunteers monitor the quality of rivers, count bird populations, record the flowering and fruiting seasons of plants, and report sightings of rare or endangered species. Such information helps scientists identify environmental changes and develop effective conservation strategies. In many countries, smartphone applications allow users to upload photographs and the exact location of plants or animals, creating extensive digital databases for researchers.

Citizen science also plays an important role in raising environmental awareness. When people participate in collecting scientific information, they begin to understand ecological issues more deeply. A person who regularly observes butterflies, for example, is more likely to notice changes in their numbers or habitats. This personal involvement often encourages individuals to adopt environmentally responsible practices such as reducing waste, conserving water, planting native trees, and protecting local biodiversity.

However, citizen science projects must ensure that the information collected is reliable. Volunteers usually receive training on observation techniques, data recording, and the ethical treatment of wildlife. Scientists verify the submitted information before including it in research studies. This collaboration between experts and the public improves both the quality and the quantity of scientific data.

As environmental challenges such as climate change, pollution, and habitat loss continue to grow, citizen science offers an effective way to involve society in finding solutions. It demonstrates that scientific progress is not limited to laboratories or universities. With

curiosity, careful observation, and responsible participation, ordinary citizens can make meaningful contributions to scientific knowledge and environmental conservation. The success of such initiatives proves that protecting the planet is a shared responsibility requiring cooperation between scientists and the communities they serve.

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What is meant by citizen science? 1m
  - a) Scientific research conducted only by government agencies.
  - b) The participation of ordinary people in scientific research.
  - c) Science taught only in schools.
  - d) Research carried out only in laboratories.
2. Which of the following activities is mentioned as an example of citizen science? 1m
  - a) Manufacturing laboratory equipment.
  - b) Monitoring bird populations and river quality.
  - c) Building new roads.
  - d) Conducting space missions.
3. How do smartphone applications support citizen science? 1m
  - a) They replace scientists completely.
  - b) They allow users to upload observations with photographs and locations.
  - c) They provide free internet access.
  - d) They predict natural disasters.
4. Why do volunteers receive training before participating in citizen science projects? 1m
  - a) To become professional scientists.
  - b) To ensure that the collected data is accurate and reliable.
  - c) To earn academic degrees.
  - d) To learn computer programming.
5. How does citizen science help researchers collect information more efficiently? 1m
6. Mention any two environmental activities performed by citizen science volunteers. 2m
7. Why do scientists verify the information submitted by volunteers? 2m
8. True or False: 1m  
Citizen science limits scientific research only to professional laboratories.



### **Passage 3:**

**Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has gradually become an integral part of modern life, often working in ways that people may not even notice. AI refers to computer systems that can perform tasks requiring human intelligence, such as recognising speech, analysing data, solving problems, and learning from experience. From unlocking smartphones using facial recognition to receiving personalised recommendations while shopping online, AI influences numerous daily activities.

One of the most significant applications of AI is in healthcare. Advanced computer programs can analyse medical images, identify early signs of diseases, and assist doctors in making accurate diagnoses. Although these systems do not replace medical professionals, they reduce the chances of human error and enable faster decision-making. Similarly, AI-powered robots are increasingly being used to perform delicate surgical procedures under the supervision of skilled surgeons.

Education has also benefited from AI-driven technologies. Many online learning platforms adapt lessons according to a student's pace and performance. If a learner struggles with a particular topic, the software provides additional explanations and practice exercises. This personalised approach helps students understand concepts more effectively than a one-size-fits-all method of teaching.

Despite its advantages, AI also presents several challenges. The growing use of automation has raised concerns about the future of certain jobs, particularly those involving repetitive tasks. In addition, questions regarding data privacy and the ethical use of personal information have become increasingly important. Experts believe that governments, technology companies, and users must work together to ensure that AI is developed responsibly and used fairly.

Rather than viewing Artificial Intelligence as a replacement for human abilities, many researchers consider it a tool that enhances human potential. Creativity, empathy, ethical judgement, and critical thinking remain uniquely human qualities that machines cannot fully replicate. As AI continues to evolve, the most valuable skill for future generations may not be competing with technology but learning how to use it wisely, responsibly, and creatively.

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. According to the passage, Artificial Intelligence refers to: 1m
  - a) Machines that can only store data.
  - b) Computer systems capable of performing tasks requiring human intelligence.
  - c) Computers that work without electricity.
  - d) Robots used only in factories.

2. Which application of AI is mentioned in the field of healthcare? 1m
- a) Manufacturing medicines independently.
  - b) Analysing medical images and assisting doctors.
  - c) Replacing all doctors in hospitals.
  - d) Conducting medical research without humans.
3. How do AI-powered educational platforms help students? 1m
- a) They provide the same lessons to everyone.
  - b) They reduce the need for teachers completely.
  - c) They adapt learning according to students' needs and performance.
  - d) They conduct only online examinations.
4. Which challenge associated with AI is discussed in the passage? 1m
- a) Shortage of electricity
  - b) Loss of internet connectivity
  - c) Concerns about jobs and data privacy
  - d) Lack of educational institutions.
5. Mention any two everyday applications of Artificial Intelligence given in the passage. 2m
6. Why do AI-based learning platforms provide additional practice exercises? 1m
7. According to the passage, which human qualities cannot be fully replicated by machines? 2m
8. According to the passage, AI should be used \_\_\_\_, responsibly, and creatively. 1m

**Passage 4:**

**Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.**

The village stood quietly at the edge of a dense forest where the mornings always arrived with the songs of birds. Every house had a small courtyard filled with flowering plants, and every evening the elders gathered beneath the old banyan tree to exchange stories that had travelled across generations. Among the listeners was sixteen-year-old Raghav, whose curiosity was greater than his fear of the unknown. While others admired the stories for their entertainment, he admired them for the lessons hidden within them.

One afternoon, after a heavy rain, Raghav noticed a narrow path that had never been visible before. The wet leaves reflected sunlight like tiny mirrors, inviting him to explore. Carrying

nothing except a notebook and a bottle of water, he followed the trail deep into the forest. The sounds of the village slowly faded until only the rustling leaves and distant calls of birds remained. Instead of feeling lonely, he experienced an unusual sense of peace.

After walking for nearly an hour, he reached a small clearing where an ancient stone well stood. It appeared abandoned, yet the water inside was remarkably clear. As he leaned over the edge, he saw not only his reflection but also the reflection of the trees moving gently with the wind. For a moment, he realised that the well did not merely hold water; it preserved silence. Every disturbance disappeared within seconds, leaving the surface calm once again.

Raghav sat beside the well and began writing in his notebook. He wrote that nature never hurried, yet nothing seemed incomplete. The forest had survived storms, droughts and changing seasons because it had learned to adapt without losing its character. Humans, however, often measured success by speed and competition, forgetting that patience could also be a form of strength.

When he returned to the village before sunset, the elders asked whether he had discovered any hidden treasure. Raghav smiled and replied that he had indeed found one, although it could not be carried home. The greatest treasure, he explained, was the understanding that a peaceful mind reflects truth as clearly as still water reflects the sky. The elders exchanged approving glances, realising that the forest had taught him a lesson no classroom alone could have offered.

### QUESTIONS:

1. What made Raghav different from the other listeners? 1m

- a) He disliked stories.
- b) He enjoyed only adventurous tales.
- c) He searched for the lessons hidden in stories.
- d) He preferred reading books.

2. Why did Raghav decide to enter the forest? 1m

- a) He was searching for treasure.
- b) He followed a newly visible path after the rain.
- c) He wanted to collect flowers.
- d) He was asked to do so by the elders.

3. What does the ancient well symbolise in the passage? 1m

- a) Wealth
- b) Silence and inner peace
- c) Fear of loneliness
- d) Mystery without meaning

4. According to the passage, the forest survived because it: 1m
- a) Was protected by the villagers.
  - b) Learned to adapt without losing its character.
  - c) Never experienced difficulties.
  - d) Grew larger every year.
5. Why did Raghav carry a notebook with him? 1m
6. What did Raghav observe about the surface of the well? 2m
7. What treasure did Raghav claim to have discovered? 2m
8. Find a word from the passage that means "to change according to new conditions."  
1m

**Passage 5:**

**Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.**

Cities across the world are expanding rapidly as more people move from villages and small towns in search of better education, healthcare, and employment opportunities. While urbanisation has improved living standards for millions, it has also created challenges such as traffic congestion, air pollution, waste management, and the shortage of green spaces. To address these issues, planners and governments are increasingly focusing on the concept of sustainable cities.

A sustainable city is designed to meet the needs of its present population without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Such cities encourage the efficient use of natural resources, reduce environmental damage, and improve the quality of life for their residents. Modern urban planning includes energy-efficient buildings, reliable public transport, recycling systems, rainwater harvesting, and the development of parks and green corridors.

One of the most significant features of sustainable cities is the promotion of environmentally friendly transportation. Dedicated cycling tracks, pedestrian-friendly streets, and electric buses help reduce the number of private vehicles on the roads. This not only lowers air pollution but also encourages healthier lifestyles. Many cities are also investing in renewable energy sources such as solar panels installed on rooftops and public buildings to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

Technology plays an equally important role in making cities smarter and more sustainable. Smart traffic signals can reduce congestion by adjusting to the flow of vehicles, while sensors installed in waste bins notify authorities when they need to be emptied. Digital water management systems detect leaks quickly, preventing the unnecessary wastage of water. These innovations improve public services while conserving valuable resources.

However, building a sustainable city requires more than advanced technology. The active participation of citizens is equally essential. Simple actions such as segregating household waste, conserving electricity, using public transport, planting trees, and avoiding single-use plastics can collectively make a significant difference. Sustainable development is therefore a shared responsibility. When governments, businesses, and citizens work together, cities become healthier, more efficient, and better prepared to face future environmental and social challenges.

**QUESTIONS:**

1. What is the primary purpose of a sustainable city? 1m
  - a) To increase industrial production only
  - b) To meet present needs without harming future generations
  - c) To encourage more private vehicles
  - d) To construct taller buildings
2. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a feature of sustainable cities? 1m
  - a) Rainwater harvesting
  - b) Recycling systems
  - c) Expansion of coal-based power plants
  - d) Energy-efficient buildings
3. How do dedicated cycling tracks benefit cities? 1m
  - a) They increase traffic congestion.
  - b) They encourage healthier lifestyles and reduce pollution.
  - c) They reduce the number of parks.
  - d) They increase fuel consumption.
4. What is the function of smart waste bins? 1m
  - a) They produce electricity.
  - b) They notify authorities when they need to be emptied.
  - c) They recycle waste automatically.
  - d) They reduce rainfall.
5. Why are people moving to cities in large numbers? 1m
6. Name any two environmentally friendly means of transportation mentioned in the passage. 2m
7. Why is citizen participation important in sustainable development? 2m
8. True or False: 1m

Sustainable development is the responsibility of the government alone.

**Passage 6:**

**Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.**

Every evening, just before sunset, a travelling violinist performed beside the quiet riverside. He never announced his arrival, nor did he expect applause. Yet, over time, people from different walks of life found themselves drawn to the gentle melodies that floated across the water. Some came after tiring days at work, while others arrived carrying worries they could not easily express.

Among the regular listeners was Aarav, a young boy who dreamed of becoming a writer. He often carried a notebook but struggled to fill its empty pages. Whenever he tried to write, he believed his thoughts were too ordinary to deserve attention. The blank paper seemed to judge him more harshly than anyone else ever could.

One evening, after the performance ended, Aarav gathered enough courage to speak to the violinist. He confessed that he wanted to create stories but feared they would never be good enough. The musician smiled and explained that every beautiful melody began with uncertain notes. If he had waited until every performance was perfect, he would never have played a single song.

Those words transformed Aarav's understanding of creativity. Instead of chasing perfection, he started writing a little every day. Some pages were clumsy, some ideas remained unfinished, and many sentences needed rewriting. However, each attempt made the next one easier. Gradually, his confidence grew stronger than his fear of failure.

Years later, Aarav published his first collection of short stories. During an interview, he was asked who had inspired him the most. Instead of mentioning a famous author, he spoke about the anonymous violinist by the riverside. He explained that true teachers often leave no certificates behind; they simply awaken the courage already hidden within others. As readers admired his stories, Aarav knew that the first chapter of his journey had begun not with success, but with the willingness to begin despite uncertainty.

**Questions**

1. Why did people gather near the riverside? 1m
- a) To watch the sunset only.
  - b) To listen to the violinist's music.
  - c) To go fishing.
  - d) To attend a market.

2. Why did Aarav hesitate to write? 1m

- a) He disliked literature.
- b) He believed his ideas were too ordinary.
- c) He had no notebook.
- d) He was too busy.

3. According to the violinist, every beautiful melody: 1m

- a) Begins with perfect notes.
- b) Requires expensive instruments.
- c) Begins with uncertain notes.
- d) Needs a large audience.

4. What helped Aarav become a better writer? 1m

- a) Waiting for perfect ideas.
- b) Writing regularly despite mistakes.
- c) Reading fewer books.
- d) Avoiding criticism.

5. What dream did Aarav have? 1m

6. What advice did the violinist give Aarav? 2m

7. Why did Aarav remember the violinist after becoming a writer? 2m

8. Fill in the blank: 1m

Aarav realised that confidence grows stronger than the fear of \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Passage 7:**

**Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.**

Time is one of the most valuable resources available to human beings because, once lost, it can never be recovered. Unlike money or material possessions, time cannot be saved for future use or borrowed from someone else. Every individual receives the same twenty-four hours in a day, yet the difference between success and failure often depends on how wisely those hours are utilised. Effective time management is not about working continuously; it is about planning, prioritising, and using time with purpose.

Discipline is the foundation of good time management. It enables individuals to follow routines, complete tasks on schedule, and remain focused despite distractions. Students

who prepare a study timetable and follow it consistently are less likely to experience stress before examinations. Similarly, professionals who organise their work according to priorities often achieve greater efficiency and maintain a healthy work-life balance. Discipline transforms good intentions into consistent actions.

In today's digital age, managing time has become increasingly challenging. Social media notifications, online entertainment, and constant access to electronic devices often consume hours without people realising it. While technology offers numerous educational and professional benefits, its misuse can lead to procrastination and reduced productivity. Learning to set limits on screen time and avoiding unnecessary distractions are essential skills for effective time management.

Good time management also contributes to better physical and mental well-being. People who organise their daily schedules are more likely to find time for exercise, sufficient sleep, hobbies, and meaningful interactions with family and friends. As a result, they experience less anxiety and greater satisfaction in their personal and professional lives. On the other hand, poor planning often leads to missed deadlines, unnecessary pressure, and declining confidence.

Developing the habits of punctuality, consistency, and self-discipline requires patience and regular practice. No one becomes organised overnight, but small improvements made every day gradually produce remarkable results. Time management is therefore not merely a technique for increasing productivity; it is a life skill that promotes responsibility, balance, and personal growth. Those who learn to value time ultimately learn to value their own potential.

#### **QUESTIONS:**

1. According to the passage, why is time considered a valuable resource? 1m
  - a) It can be borrowed from others.
  - b) It can be stored for future use.
  - c) Once lost, it cannot be recovered.
  - d) It is available only to successful people.
2. What is described as the foundation of good time management? 1m
  - a) Wealth
  - b) Discipline
  - c) Intelligence
  - d) Luck
3. According to the passage, good time management helps people: 1m
  - a) Avoid all responsibilities.
  - b) Find time for exercise, sleep, hobbies, and family.



- c) Work continuously without rest.
- d) Eliminate all problems from life.

4. What is the central idea of the passage?

- a) Success depends only on intelligence. 1m
- b) Time management and discipline promote productivity, balance, and personal growth.
- c) Technology should be avoided completely.
- d) Students should study throughout the day.

5. Why do disciplined students experience less stress before examinations? 1m

6. How can the misuse of technology affect time management? 2m

7. Mention any two habits that help develop effective time management. 2m

8. Find a word from the passage that means "the act of delaying or postponing work." 1m

#### **Passage 8:**

**Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.**

As evening descended, the old city market slowly transformed into a lively mosaic of colours, sounds, and aromas. Narrow streets, lined with centuries-old buildings, glowed under strings of warm yellow lights suspended above the crowd. Shopkeepers arranged their colourful merchandise with great care, displaying handwoven fabrics, handcrafted pottery, gleaming brassware, fragrant spices, and delicate pieces of jewellery. Every stall seemed to tell a story of craftsmanship passed down through generations.

The air carried an irresistible mixture of scents. The aroma of freshly baked bread blended with the rich fragrance of roasted coffee and the tempting smell of traditional sweets. Street vendors called out cheerfully, inviting customers to sample local delicacies, while musicians seated near the entrance played lively tunes on traditional instruments. Their melodies floated through the market, adding warmth and energy to the bustling atmosphere.

People from different backgrounds wandered through the crowded lanes, each absorbed in a unique experience. Some carefully examined handmade souvenirs, appreciating the skill of local artisans, while others bargained politely with shopkeepers. Children laughed excitedly as they watched colourful balloons dance in the evening breeze. Elderly visitors sat quietly on stone benches, observing the lively scene with contented smiles, perhaps recalling memories of similar evenings from years gone by.

Despite the constant movement, the market possessed a remarkable sense of order. Shopkeepers greeted one another warmly, customers waited patiently for their turn, and visitors respected the traditions of the place. The market was not merely a centre of commerce but also a meeting point where culture, history, and community blended naturally. Every conversation, every smile, and every carefully crafted object reflected the spirit of the city.

As night deepened, the lights appeared brighter against the dark sky, and the market continued to pulse with life. Those leaving carried more than shopping bags; they carried memories of vibrant colours, welcoming faces, melodious music, and the timeless charm of a place where tradition and everyday life existed in perfect harmony.

### QUESTIONS:

1. What created the warm glow in the market? 1m
  - a) Neon advertisements
  - b) Strings of yellow lights
  - c) Fireworks
  - d) Sunlight
2. Which of the following was NOT mentioned as being sold in the market? 1m
  - a) Handwoven fabrics
  - b) Handcrafted pottery
  - c) Electronic gadgets
  - d) Jewellery
3. What added warmth and energy to the market atmosphere? 1m
  - a) Vehicle horns
  - b) Traditional music played by street musicians
  - c) Loudspeakers
  - d) Rainfall
4. According to the passage, the market was more than a place for shopping because it: 1m
  - a) Was open throughout the night.
  - b) Reflected the city's culture, history, and community life.
  - c) Sold imported goods.
  - d) Had expensive shops.
5. What different aromas filled the air in the market? 1m
6. How did children and elderly visitors enjoy the market differently? 2m
7. What memories did visitors carry home besides their purchases? 2m
8. True or False:

The market was described as only a commercial centre with no cultural significance. 1m

**Passage 9:**

**Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.**

Student life is often described as the foundation upon which the future is built. It is a period of learning, self-discovery, and personal growth that extends far beyond textbooks and examinations. Every classroom lesson, group discussion, project, competition, and interaction contributes to shaping an individual's character, confidence, and outlook towards life. While academic achievement is important, the true purpose of education is to prepare students to become responsible, compassionate, and capable citizens.

Today's students live in a rapidly changing world where opportunities are abundant, but so are distractions. The widespread use of digital devices and social media has transformed the way young people learn and communicate. Although technology provides easy access to information and innovative learning resources, excessive dependence on it may reduce concentration, increase procrastination, and limit meaningful face-to-face interactions. Therefore, students must learn to use technology wisely rather than allowing it to control their daily routines.

Another significant challenge faced by students is the pressure to perform well academically. Healthy competition can inspire improvement, but constant comparison with others may create unnecessary stress and self-doubt. Every learner possesses unique talents, interests, and learning styles. Success should not be measured solely by examination scores but also by qualities such as creativity, perseverance, curiosity, honesty, and the willingness to keep learning from mistakes.

Equally important is the development of life skills. Effective communication, teamwork, critical thinking, emotional resilience, and time management enable students to face future challenges with confidence. Participation in sports, cultural programmes, debates, community service, and creative activities helps nurture these qualities while promoting physical and emotional well-being.

Student life is not about becoming perfect; it is about becoming better each day. Every challenge presents an opportunity to learn, and every failure offers valuable lessons for future success. Those who remain disciplined, maintain a positive attitude, respect others, and continue learning with determination gradually develop into confident individuals capable of contributing meaningfully to society. Ultimately, education is not only the pursuit of knowledge but also the cultivation of character and lifelong values.

**QUESTIONS:**

1. According to the passage, the true purpose of education is to: 1m
- a) Score the highest marks.

- b) Prepare students to become responsible and capable citizens.
- c) Win every competition.
- d) Complete the syllabus.

2. Which challenge associated with technology is mentioned in the passage? 1m

- a) Lack of internet access.
- b) Excessive dependence can reduce concentration and increase procrastination.
- c) Technology discourages learning.
- d) Students cannot access information online.

3. According to the passage, success should also be measured by: 1m

- a) Examination scores alone.
- b) Wealth and popularity.
- c) Creativity, perseverance, honesty, and curiosity.
- d) The number of awards won.

4. Which of the following is mentioned as an important life skill? 1m

- a) Memorising textbooks.
- b) Critical thinking.
- c) Fast typing.
- d) Competitive gaming.

5. Why can constant comparison with others be harmful to students? 1m

6. Mention any two activities that help students develop life skills. 2m

7. According to the passage, how does failure contribute to success? 2m

8. Fill in the blank: 1m

Ultimately, education is not only the pursuit of knowledge but also the cultivation of \_\_\_\_\_ and lifelong values.

### **Passage 10:**

**Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.**

At the back of an old wooden cupboard lay a notebook whose pages had turned the colour of autumn leaves. Its cover was worn, its corners bent, and a thin layer of dust suggested that it had remained untouched for years. Yet one page stood out from the rest. It was perfectly blank.

Whenever Aditi visited her grandmother during the holidays, she found herself opening that notebook. Most of its pages contained poems, unfinished sketches, pressed flowers, and observations about ordinary moments—a child chasing butterflies, the scent of the first

rain, a train disappearing into the evening mist. None of the entries seemed extraordinary, yet together they formed a quiet record of a life carefully observed.

The final blank page puzzled her. One afternoon she finally asked, "Why didn't you finish the notebook?"

Her grandmother smiled but did not answer immediately. Instead, she ran her fingers gently across the empty sheet and looked out of the window where the sunlight filtered through the branches of an old neem tree.

"When I was young," she said softly, "I thought every story needed a perfect ending. Later I realised that life rarely offers one. There are dreams we postpone, letters we never send, journeys we never take, and people we never forget. I left this page empty so that I would always remember there is still room for another beginning."

Years passed. After her grandmother's death, Aditi inherited the notebook. She often considered filling the last page with a poem or a memory, but each time she closed the book without writing a single word. Gradually, she understood that the blank page was not incomplete; it was an invitation. It reminded her that hope survives uncertainty and that every ending quietly waits to become the beginning of something new.

One spring morning, Aditi placed the notebook on her desk beside a fresh diary. Instead of writing on the old blank page, she opened the new diary and began her first sentence. The untouched page remained exactly as it had always been—not empty, but full of possibilities that no single story could ever contain.

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Why did the blank page attract Aditi's attention?    1m
  - a) It contained a beautiful painting.
  - b) It was the only untouched page in the notebook.
  - c) It had a secret letter hidden inside.
  - d) It was torn.
2. What did the notebook mainly contain?
  - a) School assignments.    1m
  - b) Poems, sketches, pressed flowers, and observations
  - c) Newspaper cuttings
  - d) Recipes
3. Why had Aditi's grandmother left the last page blank?    1m
  - a) She forgot to complete the notebook.
  - b) She ran out of ink.

- c) She wanted it to symbolise new beginnings and endless possibilities.
  - d) She wanted Aditi to complete it.
4. Why did Aditi choose not to write on the blank page? 1m
- a) She lost her pen.
  - b) She understood its symbolic meaning.
  - c) She disliked writing.
  - d) She wanted to throw the notebook away.
5. Why were the notebook's ordinary observations meaningful? 1m
6. What did the blank page symbolise to Aditi by the end of the story? 2m
7. Why did Aditi begin writing in a new diary instead of the old notebook? 2m
8. Find a word from the passage that means "received something from someone after their death." 1m

### UNSEEN PASSAGES

(WITH VISUAL INPUTS AND STATISTICAL DATA)

(FOR 8 MARKS)

#### **PASSAGE -1**

##### **The Rise of Digital Payments in India**

Over the past decade, India has witnessed a remarkable shift towards digital payments. The widespread use of smartphones, affordable internet services, and government initiatives promoting cashless transactions have transformed the way people pay for goods and services. Digital payment methods, such as Unified Payments Interface (UPI), mobile wallets, internet banking, and debit or credit cards, are now commonly used in both urban and rural areas.

While digital payments offer convenience, speed, and transparency, they also require users to be cautious about cyber fraud and data security. Experts suggest that digital literacy is as important as financial literacy in today's economy. Consumers are advised to use secure passwords, enable two-factor authentication, and verify payment requests before completing any transaction.

The table below shows the preferred modes of payment among consumers in a survey conducted in 2025.

Preferred Mode of Payment (Survey of 2,000 Consumers)

| Mode of Payment    | Percentage of Users |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| UPI                | 52%                 |
| Debit/Credit Cards | 22%                 |
| Cash               | 15%                 |
| Internet Banking   | 7%                  |
| Mobile Wallets     | 4%                  |

The survey also found that 68% of respondents considered convenience the biggest advantage of digital payments, while 18% cited speed and 10% appreciated the availability of transaction records. However, 4% of the respondents expressed concerns about online fraud.

Although digital payments have significantly reduced dependence on cash, experts believe that awareness regarding cyber safety must increase at the same pace. A truly digital economy can succeed only when technological advancement is supported by responsible and informed usage.

Read the passage carefully and answer the following questions.

Q1. Which of the following best describes the central idea of the passage?

- a) Digital payments have completely replaced cash in India.
- b) The growing adoption of digital payments has brought convenience as well as the need for responsible digital practices.
- c) Rural India has not accepted digital payment methods.
- d) Internet banking is the most preferred mode of digital payment.

Q2. Read the following statements and choose the correct option.

Assertion (A): Digital literacy has become essential in today's economy

Reason (R): A lack of awareness about online safety can make users vulnerable to cyber fraud.

- a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c) A is true, but R is false.
- d) A is false, but R is true.

Q3. Study the table carefully.

If another survey of 5,000 consumers reflects the same pattern, approximately how many respondents would be expected to prefer Debit/Credit Cards?

- a) 880
- b) 1,000
- c) 1,100
- d) 1,250

Q4. Select the option that correctly identifies the relationship between Column A and Column B.

Column A

Column B

- |                     |                                            |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| (i) UPI             | (A) Least preferred digital payment method |
| (ii) Mobile Wallets | (B) Most preferred payment mode            |
| (iii) Cash          | (C) Traditional payment method             |

- a) (i)-B, (ii)-A, (iii)-C
- b) (i)-A, (ii)-C, (iii)-B
- c) (i)-B, (ii)-C, (iii)-A
- d) (i)-C, (ii)-A, (iii)-B

Q5. Why does passage emphasize that digital literacy is as important as financial literacy?

2

Marks

Q6. Imagine that the percentage of people concerned about online fraud increases significantly in future surveys. Based on the passage, suggest two measures that could help restore consumers' confidence in digital payment systems. 2 Marks

## **PASSAGE -2**

### **Road Safety: A Shared Responsibility**

Road accidents continue to be one of the leading causes of injuries and deaths across the world. In India, rapid urbanisation, an increasing number of vehicles, and disregard for



traffic rules have contributed significantly to this problem. While governments invest heavily in improving road infrastructure and enforcing stricter laws, individual responsibility remains the key to safer roads.

Experts believe that most road accidents are preventable. Over-speeding, distracted driving, driving under the influence of alcohol, jumping traffic signals, and failure to wear helmets or seat belts are among the major causes. Unfortunately, many drivers underestimate these risks until a tragic incident occurs.

Awareness campaigns have encouraged citizens to follow road safety measures, and several states have introduced stricter penalties for traffic violations. Schools and colleges also organise programmes to educate young people about responsible road behaviour, as today's students are tomorrow's drivers and pedestrians.

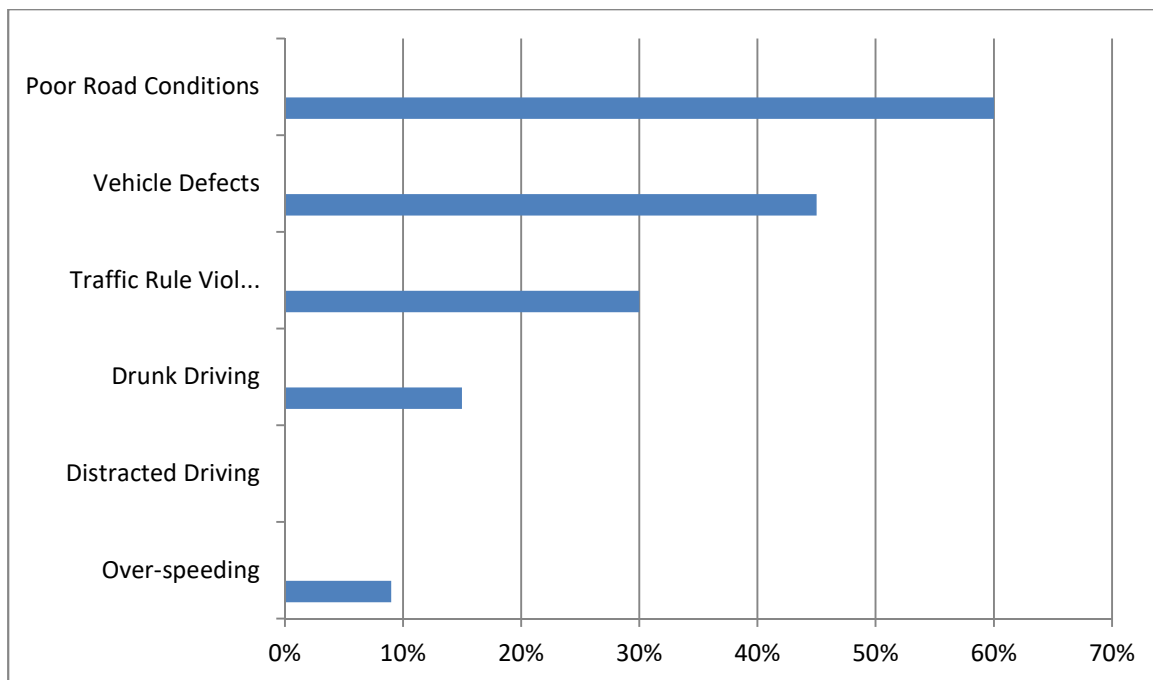
Technology has further strengthened road safety efforts. Speed cameras, AI-enabled traffic monitoring systems, and emergency response services have improved accident detection and law enforcement. However, technology alone cannot prevent accidents. Responsible behaviour, patience, and respect for traffic regulations are equally important.

Every road user—whether a driver, cyclist, or pedestrian—shares the responsibility of ensuring safety. Following traffic rules may seem inconvenient at times, but it saves lives. A few extra seconds at a traffic signal are insignificant when compared to the lifelong consequences of a preventable accident. Creating a culture of road safety requires cooperation between authorities and citizens alike. Only when every individual understands that road safety begins with personal responsibility can the number of accidents be reduced significantly.

Graph: Major Causes of Road Accidents (%)

Major Causes of Road Accidents

**Percentage contribution of different factors to reported road accidents.**



#### Traffic Rule Violations

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow.

Q1. Which of the following best expresses the central idea of the passage?

- a) Technology can completely eliminate road accidents.
- b) Road safety is a collective responsibility that requires both effective governance and responsible individual behaviour.
- c) Road accidents occur mainly because of poor road infrastructure.
- d) Strict penalties alone can solve the problem of road accidents.

Q2. Read the following statements and choose the correct option.

Assertion (A): Most road accidents can be prevented.

Reason (R): Many accidents occur because road users ignore basic traffic rules and safety measures.

- a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c) A is true, but R is false.

d) A is false, but R is true.

Q3. Study the graph carefully.

If Traffic Rule Violations account for 40% of the reported road accidents and a city recorded 7,500 accidents in a year, approximately how many accidents resulted from traffic rule violations?

a) 2,500

b) 3,000

c) 3,500

d) 4,000

Q4. Which of the following can be inferred from the statement "A few extra seconds at a traffic signal are insignificant when compared to the lifelong consequences of a preventable accident"?

a) Traffic signals unnecessarily delay commuters.

b) Saving time is more important than following traffic rules.

c) Exercising patience on the road can prevent serious accidents.

d) Drivers should avoid busy intersections.

Q5. How has technology contributed to improving road safety?

Q6. Based on the passage, suggest two practical steps that individuals can take to reduce road accidents in their daily lives. (Answer in 40–50 words.)

(2)

### **PASSAGE 3**

#### **The Rise of Digital Payments in India**

India has witnessed a remarkable transformation in the way people make financial transactions. Over the past few years, digital payment systems have become an integral part of daily life. From purchasing groceries to paying utility bills and booking travel tickets, millions of Indians now prefer digital methods over cash. This shift has been driven by increased smartphone usage, affordable internet services, government initiatives promoting a cashless economy, and the growing trust in secure payment platforms.

The convenience of digital payments extends beyond cities. Rural areas have also experienced steady growth due to improved internet connectivity, awareness campaigns, and easier access to banking services. Small shopkeepers and street vendors increasingly

accept QR code payments because these reduce the need to maintain cash and provide a digital record of transactions. However, experts believe that digital literacy and awareness about cyber safety must improve further to ensure safe and responsible usage.

A recent survey conducted among Indian consumers highlighted the changing payment preferences across different age groups. The findings reveal that while younger people use digital payment methods more frequently, older users are gradually adopting them as well. The survey also found that convenience, speed and cashback offers encourage people to use digital platforms, whereas concerns about online fraud remain the biggest challenge.

Experts suggest that future growth will depend not only on technological innovation but also on educating citizens about secure online practices. Strong passwords, two-factor authentication, and avoiding suspicious links are considered essential habits for digital users. Policymakers believe that a balance between technological advancement and consumer protection will strengthen confidence in digital transactions and encourage more people to adopt them. As digital infrastructure continues to expand, India is likely to move towards a more inclusive and efficient financial ecosystem where digital payments become the preferred mode of transaction for most everyday needs.

Survey: Preferred Mode of Payment by Age Group (2025)

| Age Group      | Digital Payments | Cash |
|----------------|------------------|------|
| 18–25 years    | 88%              | 62%  |
| 26–40 years    | 12%              | 38%  |
| 41–60 years    | 81%              | 44%  |
| Above 60 years | 19%              | 56%  |

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow.

(i) Which conclusion is best supported by both the passage and the survey data? (1)

- A. Digital payments are equally popular across all age groups.
- B. Preference for digital payments generally decreases with increasing age.
- C. Older citizens completely avoid digital payments.
- D. Cash has become the preferred payment method among young adults.

(ii) Which factor is presented as the greatest obstacle to wider adoption of digital payments?(1)

- A. High internet costs

B. Lack of smartphones

C. Fear of online fraud

D. Limited banking facilities

(iii) Which of the following would most effectively increase digital payment adoption according to the passage? (1)

A. Increasing cashback offers alone

B. Reducing the number of banks

C. Improving cyber safety awareness and digital literacy

D. Discouraging cash transactions through penalties

(iv) The survey suggests that the \_\_\_\_\_ age group still prefers cash over digital payments.(1)

(v) Why does the passage emphasise a balance between technological advancement and consumer protection? (2)

(vi) The survey shows that digital payment usage declines with age. Analyse two possible reasons for this trend using evidence from both the passage and the table. (40–50 words)  
(2)

#### **PASSAGE -4**

##### **Mental Health: An Essential Part of Well-being**

Mental health is an integral part of a person's overall well-being. It influences how individuals think, feel, behave, handle stress, make decisions, and interact with others. In recent years, awareness about mental health has increased significantly, yet misconceptions and social stigma continue to prevent many people from seeking timely support. Experts believe that maintaining good mental health is just as important as taking care of physical health.

Adolescence is a period of rapid emotional, physical, and social changes. Academic pressure, excessive screen time, social media comparisons, family expectations, and concerns about the future can affect the emotional well-being of young people. While occasional stress is a normal part of life, prolonged anxiety, sadness, or withdrawal from daily activities may indicate the need for professional guidance. Early recognition of such signs can help prevent more serious mental health challenges.

Schools are increasingly recognising their role in promoting emotional well-being. Many educational institutions now organise mindfulness sessions, peer-support programmes, counselling services, and life-skills workshops to help students build resilience and develop healthy coping strategies. At home, open communication and a supportive family environment also contribute significantly to emotional stability.

A recent survey conducted among 2,000 students explored the factors that students believe most affect their mental well-being.

#### Factors Affecting Students' Mental Well-being (2025 Survey)

| Factor                  | Percentage of Students |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Academic Pressure       | 38%                    |
| Social Media Comparison | 24%                    |
| Family Expectations     | 18%                    |
| Lack of Sleep           | 12%                    |
| Other Factors           | 8%                     |

Experts emphasise that seeking help should be viewed as a sign of strength rather than weakness. Simple practices such as maintaining a balanced routine, engaging in physical activity, limiting screen time, practising mindfulness, and talking openly about one's feelings can improve emotional well-being. Creating an environment where people feel safe to express their emotions without fear of judgement is essential for building a mentally healthy society.

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow.

Q1. Which of the following best expresses the central idea of the passage?(1)

- a) Mental health problems can only be solved through medication.
- b) Mental well-being requires awareness, timely support, and healthy coping strategies.
- c) Academic pressure is the only cause of mental health issues.
- d) Social media should be completely avoided by students.

Q2. Read the following statements and choose the correct option. (1)

Assertion (A): Seeking professional help for mental health concerns should be encouraged.

Reason (R): Early recognition and timely support can prevent more serious mental health challenges.

- a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c) A is true, but R is false.
- d) A is false, but R is true.

Q3. Refer to the survey table.

If 2,000 students participated in the survey, approximately how many students identified social media comparison as the factor that most affected their mental well-being? (1)

- a) 360
- b) 420
- c) 480
- d) 520

Q4. Complete the following sentence by choosing the most appropriate option. (1)

The passage suggests that creating a mentally healthy society requires people to \_\_\_\_\_.

Q5. How does a supportive family environment contribute to mental health? (2)

Q6. Based on the passage and the survey, suggest two practical ways in which students can protect their mental well-being. Answer in 40–45 words. (2 Marks)

### **PASSAGE -5**

#### **Reading Habits in the Digital Age**

In recent years, educators and researchers have expressed growing concern over the changing reading habits of senior secondary students. To examine this shift in greater detail, a survey was conducted among Grade 11 students of a city school. The objective of the study was not only to measure how frequently students read, but also to understand the formats they prefer, the obstacles they face, and the perceived benefits of regular reading in an increasingly digital environment.

The findings of the survey reveal that while reading has not disappeared from students' lives, its nature has undergone a noticeable change. As reflected in Table 1, a significant proportion of students continue to engage in reading on a daily or near-daily basis. However, teachers observed that much of this reading is driven by academic requirements

rather than personal interest. Non-academic reading, particularly long-form texts such as novels and essays, appears to be declining.

A comparison of reading formats, shown in Table 2, highlights a clear shift towards digital media. E-books and online articles together account for a majority of students' preferences, indicating that reading is increasingly mediated through screens. While digital formats offer convenience and accessibility, teachers involved in the study expressed concern that excessive screen exposure may reduce students' attention span and discourage deep, reflective reading. Students were often found skimming digital texts rather than engaging with them critically.

The survey also examined the factors that restrict regular reading habits. According to Table 3, lack of time emerged as the most commonly cited barrier, closely followed by distraction caused by social media. Academic pressure, though relevant, ranked lower, suggesting that students are not avoiding reading solely due to workload but are influenced by competing digital distractions. Notably, only a small proportion of students reported a lack of interest in reading, indicating that motivation exists but is often overshadowed.

Despite these challenges, students who read regularly acknowledged the benefits of the habit. Many reported improvements in vocabulary, writing ability, and concentration. Overall, the findings suggest that reading continues to be valued among students, but its medium, purpose, and depth are evolving. The study emphasizes the need for schools to encourage balanced reading practices that combine the ease of digital access with the sustained engagement offered by printed texts.

Daily

42%

| TABLE 1 : Frequency of reading among students |            |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------|
| Frequency of Reading                          | Percentage |
| Daily                                         | 42%        |
| 3 -4 times                                    | 28%        |
| Once a week                                   | 18%        |
| rarely                                        | 12%        |

| TABLE 2: Preferred Reading Format |            |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Reading Format                    | Percentage |



|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| Printed books   | 35% |
| E-Books         | 40% |
| Online Articles | 25% |

| TABLE 3- Major Barriers to regular Reading |            |
|--------------------------------------------|------------|
| Barrier                                    | Percentage |
| Lack of time                               | 38%        |
| Social Media Distraction                   | 34%        |
| Academic Pressure                          | 18%        |
| Lack of interest                           | 10%        |

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

i. Which conclusion about students' reading frequency is best supported by Table 1 and the passage? (1)

- (a) Reading is limited to a small minority of students.
- (b) Most students read only when examinations approach.
- (c) A majority of students read regularly, though not always by choice.
- (d) Reading has almost disappeared among senior secondary students.

ii. Based on Table 2, which reading format most strongly explains the teachers' concern mentioned in the passage? (1)

- (a) Printed books
- (b) Online articles
- (c) E-books
- (d) All formats equally

iii. Which data point from Table 3 directly supports the statement that external distractions outweigh lack of motivation? (1)

- (a) Academic pressure affecting 18% of students
- (b) Lack of interest affecting 10% of students
- (c) Lack of time affecting 38% of students

(d) Social media distraction affecting 34% of students

iv. Fill in the blank. (1)

The combined data from Table 1 and Table 2 suggests that while students continue to read frequently, the \_\_\_\_\_ of reading has shifted significantly.

v. Answer the following questions in 40–50 words each. ( $2 \times 2 = 4$ )

(a) How does Table 2 strengthen the passage's claim that reading is increasingly "mediated through screens"?

(b) Using evidence from Table 3, explain why the passage argues that reduced reading is not mainly due to academic pressure.

### **PASSAGE -6**

#### **Artificial Intelligence: Transforming Learning Responsibly**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become one of the most significant technological developments in education. Today, many students use AI-powered tools to understand concepts, improve language skills, and prepare for examinations. These tools provide instant feedback, personalised learning experiences, and easy access to information, making learning more flexible and engaging. However, educators believe that AI should support learning rather than replace independent thinking.

A 2025 survey of 2,500 senior secondary students revealed that 76% of students use AI-based learning tools every week, while 18% use them occasionally. Only 6% reported that they had never used AI for academic purposes. The survey further showed that 42% of students primarily used AI to understand difficult concepts, 24% relied on it for completing assignments, 18% used it to improve language skills, and 10% used it mainly for examination preparation. Although 71% believed that AI made learning more efficient, 22% admitted that they sometimes depended on AI without attempting to solve problems independently.

Experts caution that excessive reliance on AI may weaken critical thinking and creativity if students accept AI-generated responses without questioning them. They recommend verifying information from reliable sources, using AI ethically, and developing strong analytical skills. Schools have also started organising workshops to promote digital literacy and responsible use of AI.

Interestingly, 68% of students surveyed wanted schools to introduce formal lessons on the ethical use of AI, while 74% believed that AI should assist teachers rather than replace them. These findings suggest that students appreciate the benefits of AI but also recognise the importance of human guidance. As technology continues to evolve, the future of education

will depend on balancing innovation with responsibility, ensuring that AI remains a tool for learning rather than a substitute for human intelligence.

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow.

- i. Which conclusion is best supported by both the passage and the survey findings? (1)
- a) Most students believe AI should replace teachers completely.
  - b) Students recognise the usefulness of AI but also understand the need for its responsible use.
  - c) AI has had very little impact on education.
  - d) Most students use AI only for examination preparation.
- ii. Which survey finding most strongly supports the concern that students may become over-dependent on AI? (1)
- a) 76% of students use AI every week.
  - b) 42% use AI to understand difficult concepts.
  - c) 22% admitted depending on AI without trying to solve problems independently.
  - d) 68% wanted schools to introduce lessons on AI ethics.
- iii. Complete the following sentence. (1)
- The passage suggests that the future of education will depend on maintaining a balance between technological innovation and \_\_\_\_\_.
- iv. What are the risks of excessive reliance on AI in education? (2)
- v. Read the following statement and choose the correct option. (1 Mark)
- Statement: The passage suggests that Artificial Intelligence is most effective when it complements, rather than replaces, human learning.
- a) True
  - b) False
- vii. Based on the survey findings and the passage, explain two measures that schools can adopt to ensure students use AI responsibly while continuing to develop independent thinking. Answer in (40–45 words.) (2)

### **PASSAGE -7**

#### **Water Conservation**

Water scarcity has emerged as one of the most pressing global challenges of the twenty-first century. Despite the Earth being covered mostly by water, only a small fraction is available as freshwater for human use. Increasing population, rapid urbanisation, industrial growth, and climate change have intensified the pressure on this limited resource. According to a recent survey conducted among 500 urban households, domestic water consumption patterns reveal that a significant amount of water is wasted through everyday activities. The survey found that 32% of avoidable water wastage occurs due to long showers, while 24% results from leaking taps that often remain unrepaired for weeks. Another 18% is attributed to overwatering gardens, 14% to washing vehicles with running hoses, and the remaining 12% to leaving taps running during household chores such as brushing teeth or washing utensils.

The findings suggest that many instances of water wastage occur not because of a shortage of technology but because of careless habits. Experts estimate that a leaking tap can waste nearly 15–20 litres of water every day, which amounts to more than 5,000 litres annually. Similarly, reducing the duration of a daily shower by just two minutes can save hundreds of litres of water every month. Such small behavioural changes, when adopted collectively, can have a substantial impact.

Governments and environmental organisations have introduced programmes promoting rainwater harvesting, wastewater recycling, and efficient irrigation techniques. However, sustainable water management requires active participation from every citizen. Schools, in particular, play a crucial role by encouraging students to conduct water audits, spread awareness, and adopt conservation practices at home.

Water conservation is not merely an environmental responsibility; it is also an economic necessity and a commitment to future generations. Every drop saved today contributes to ensuring adequate water supplies for tomorrow.

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow.

1. Which inference can be drawn from the survey findings? (1)

- A. Water-saving devices alone can solve the crisis.
- B. Habits matter.
- C. Domestic water use is no longer a major environmental concern.
- D. Urban households cannot reduce water consumption without government support.

2. According to the survey, what percentage of avoidable water wastage is caused by long showers, leaking taps, and running taps during chores together? (1)

- A. 56%
- B. 44%

C. 68%

D. 82%

3. State whether the following statement is True or False. (1)

Schools are expected to play only a minor role in promoting water conservation because the responsibility lies mainly with the government.

4. Which word from the passage means 'the careful use of resources so that they remain available for future generations'? (para-3) (1)

5. The survey shows that people waste water in several routine household activities. Suggest any two practical measures that can help reduce domestic water wastage. Support your answer with ideas from the passage. (2)

6. Why does the author describe water conservation as "an investment in the well-being of future generations"? (2)

## **PASSAGE – 8**

### **Skill Development: Preparing India's Youth for the Future**

India's rapidly changing economy has made skill development an essential component of education. Employers today seek candidates who possess not only academic qualifications but also communication, problem-solving, digital literacy, teamwork, and adaptability. Recognising this need, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 encourages experiential learning, vocational education, internships, and multidisciplinary learning so that students acquire practical competencies alongside theoretical knowledge.

Recent reports indicate encouraging progress. According to the India Skills Report 2026, India's overall employability has increased to 56.35%, up from 54.81% in the previous year. The report also notes that employability has risen steadily from 46.2% in 2022 to 56.35% in 2026, reflecting growing emphasis on skill-based education and digital learning. The study, based on responses from over one lakh candidates and employers across several sectors, highlights that skills in Artificial Intelligence (AI), digital technologies, communication, and problem-solving are becoming increasingly valuable in the modern workplace.

To strengthen India's skilled workforce, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has expanded programmes such as PMKVY 4.0. As of December 2025, over 27 lakh candidates had received training across 38 sectors in 732 districts. More than 15,500 institutions, including over 7,000 Skill Hubs in schools, colleges, and Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), are participating in the programme. Future-oriented job roles in AI, green jobs, Industry 4.0, and digital services have also been introduced to prepare learners for emerging careers.

However, experts emphasise that acquiring technical knowledge alone is insufficient. Students must continuously update their skills, remain adaptable, and actively participate in internships, projects, and community-based learning. In a rapidly evolving world of work, lifelong learning has become as important as formal education. Skill development, therefore, is not merely a pathway to employment but a foundation for innovation, responsible citizenship, and sustainable national growth.

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow.

1. Read the following Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Choose the correct option. (1)

Assertion (A): Skill development improves students' employability.

Reason (R): Every student who values skill development regularly participates in workshops and internships.

- A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C. A is true, but R is false.
- D. A is false, but R is true.
2. Which inference can be drawn from the passage? (1)
- A. Academic knowledge alone is sufficient for employment.
- B. Skills improve employability.
- C. Vocational education has replaced formal education.
- D. Employers prefer experienced workers only.

3. According to the India Skills Report 2026, by how many percentage points did India's employability increase between 2022 and 2026? (1)

A. 8.15

B. 10.15

C. 12.35

D. 14.20

4. What is the significance of PMKVY 4.0 in developing India's skilled workforce? (2)

5. State whether the following statement is True or False. (1)

The passage suggests that technical knowledge alone is enough to prepare students for future careers.

6. The passage highlights a steady rise in India's employability from 2022 to 2026. What does this trend suggest about the changing approach towards education and skill development in the country? (Answer in about 40–50 words.) (2)

### **PASSAGE - 9**

Climate change has become one of the most serious global challenges of the twenty-first century. Rising global temperatures have increased the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as heat waves, droughts, floods, and wildfires. According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), 2024 was the warmest year on record globally, with the global average temperature exceeding the pre-industrial average by more than 1.5°C. Scientists attribute this rise primarily to increasing greenhouse gas emissions caused by human activities.

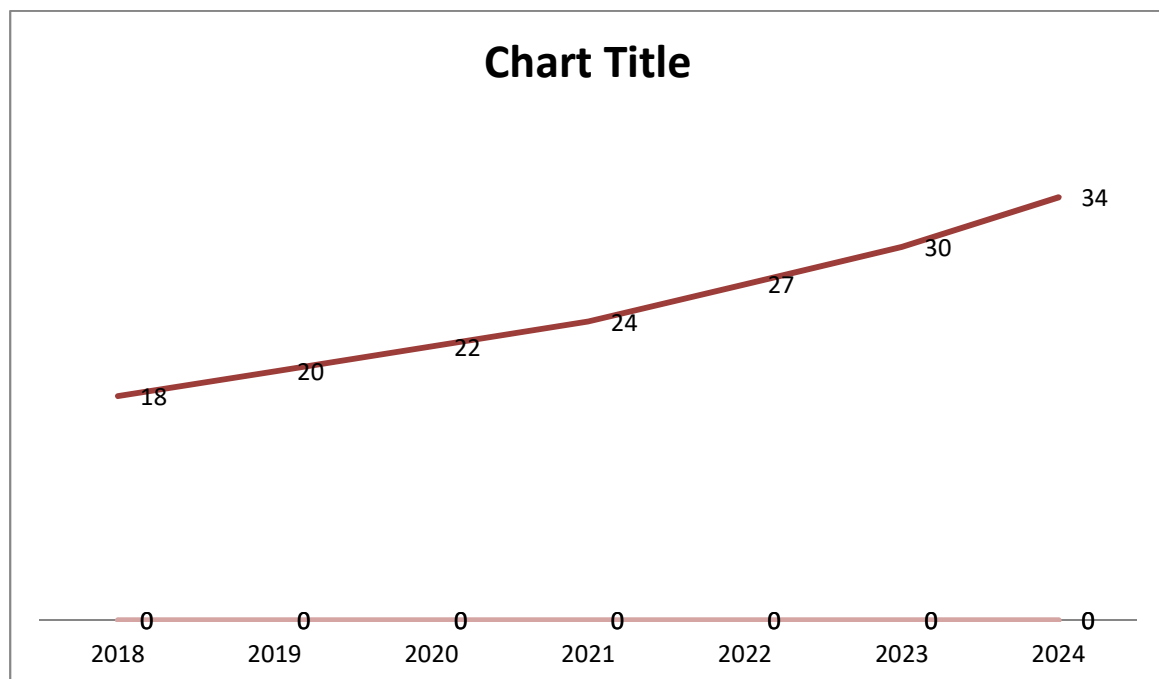
India has also experienced the effects of rising temperatures. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has reported that several regions have witnessed longer and more frequent heat-wave conditions during recent summers. The line graph above illustrates the increasing trend in the average number of heat-wave days between 2018 and 2024. The data shows that the average number of heat-wave days rose from 18 days in 2018 to 34 days in 2024, indicating a steady upward trend. Such prolonged periods of extreme heat have affected agriculture, water availability, public health, and productivity.

Heat waves pose serious health risks, especially for children, elderly people, outdoor workers, and individuals with existing medical conditions. Prolonged exposure to extremely high temperatures can lead to dehydration, heat exhaustion, and heatstroke. Urban areas often experience even higher temperatures because of the urban heat island effect, where concrete buildings and roads absorb and retain heat.

Experts believe that reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing green cover, conserving water, improving urban planning, and spreading public awareness are essential for building climate resilience. Individuals can also contribute by avoiding unnecessary energy consumption, planting trees, using public transport, and following heat advisories issued by local authorities. Combating climate change requires collective action by governments, communities, industries, and citizens to ensure a healthier and more sustainable future.

### Heat Wave Days in India (Illustrative Trend Based on IMD/WMO Reports)

The graph shows the increasing trend in the average annual number of heat-wave days over recent years.



Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow.

1. Which inference can be drawn from the line graph and the passage? (1)

- A. Rising temperatures have increased the duration of heat waves
- B. Heat waves occur only in urban areas.
- C. Climate change affects only agriculture.



D. Greenhouse gas emissions have reduced significantly.

2. According to the line graph, by how many days did the average number of heat-wave days increase between 2018 and 2024? (1)

A. 14 days

B. 16 days

C. 18 days

D. 20 days

3. Complete the following sentence by choosing the most appropriate option. (1)

According to the passage, reducing greenhouse gas emissions is important because it helps \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Why are urban areas often hotter than surrounding regions? (2)

5. Between which two consecutive years did the line graph record the greatest increase in the average number of heat-wave days? (1)

A. 2018–2019

B. 2019–2020

C. 2021–2022

D. 2023–2024

6. Imagine your school is organising a 'Beat the Heat' Awareness Campaign. Based on the passage, suggest any two measures that students and the community can adopt to reduce the impact of heat waves. (2)

**PASSAGE – 10**

## **Electric Vehicles: Driving India Towards a Greener Future**

### Electric Vehicle Registrations in India

Study the data given below and then read the passage that follows. (Cumulative)

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Registered Electric Vehicles (Approx.)</b> |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 2021        | 10 lakh                                       |
| 2022        | 18 lakh                                       |
| 2023        | 28 lakh                                       |
| 2024        | 44 lakh                                       |

Source: Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (VAHAN Dashboard), Government of India (Approximate cumulative registrations based on official VAHAN data trends).

The transport sector plays a significant role in economic development, but it is also one of the major contributors to air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. To address these environmental challenges, India is actively promoting the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs). Unlike conventional petrol and diesel vehicles, EVs operate using electric batteries, producing zero tailpipe emissions and reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

The data above illustrates the steady growth in the number of registered electric vehicles in India. According to the VAHAN Dashboard maintained by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, cumulative EV registrations increased from approximately 10 lakh in 2021 to 44 lakh in 2024. This remarkable rise reflects growing public awareness, improvements in charging infrastructure, government incentives, and technological advancements in battery efficiency.

The Government of India has introduced several initiatives to encourage EV adoption. Financial incentives under schemes such as the PM E-DRIVE Scheme, expansion of public charging stations, and support for domestic battery manufacturing have accelerated the transition towards cleaner mobility. Many state governments have also introduced tax concessions and registration benefits to encourage consumers to switch to electric vehicles.

Despite this progress, several challenges remain. High initial purchase costs, limited charging facilities in some regions, battery recycling, and consumer concerns about driving range continue to affect widespread adoption. Experts believe that continued investment in charging infrastructure, technological innovation, and public awareness will help overcome these barriers.

As India moves towards sustainable development, electric vehicles represent more than just an alternative mode of transport. They contribute to cleaner air, reduced carbon emissions,

lower fuel imports, and improved energy security. The rapid increase in EV registrations demonstrates that environmentally responsible transportation is gradually becoming an important part of India's future.

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow.

1. According to the data, by approximately how many lakh vehicles did cumulative EV registrations increase between 2021 and 2024? (1)

- A. 30 lakh
- B. 32 lakh
- C. 34 lakh
- D. 36 lakh

2. Complete the following sentence by choosing the most appropriate option. (1)

The passage suggests that electric vehicles contribute to sustainable development because they \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. consume more fossil fuels
- B. reduce carbon emissions
- C. require no maintenance
- D. replaces public transport

3. State whether the following statement is True or False.

The passage suggests that the widespread adoption of electric vehicles has completely eliminated challenges related to transportation.

4. What are the major challenges in the widespread adoption of EVs?

5. Which statement is best supported by the data in the table? (1)

- A. EV registrations increased steadily every year.
- B. EV registrations declined after 2022.
- C. The highest registrations were recorded in 2021.
- D. EV registrations remained unchanged between 2023 and 2024.

6. What does the increasing trend in electric vehicle registrations indicate about people's attitude towards sustainable transport? (Answer in about 40–50 words.) (2)

### **NOTE-MAKING**

## Note-Making Breakdown (5 Marks)

- **Title (1 Mark):** A clear, short title reflecting the main theme of the passage.
- **Numbering and Indentation (2 Marks):** Proper logical hierarchy using main headings, sub-headings, and sub-sub-headings with correct spacing. Complete sentences are avoided.
- **Abbreviations / Key (2 Marks):** Use of at least 4 recognizable short forms or symbols with a boxed **Key to Abbreviations**. [

## Summary Breakdown (3 Marks)

- **Content (2 Marks):** Expressing the core ideas extracted directly from your notes in logical sequence.
- **Expression (1 Mark):** Adhering strictly to the word limit (around 80 words) using complete, grammatically correct sentences.

## SOLVED

### Passage 1

Education has always been regarded as the most powerful instrument for the progress of any nation. It is not merely the acquisition of knowledge but a process that shapes the personality, character and intellect of an individual. In a country like India, which has a large young population, education holds the key to economic growth, social harmony and national development. The Right to Education Act, 2009 made free and compulsory education a fundamental right for children between the ages of six and fourteen. Despite this progressive legislation, several challenges continue to hinder the goal of universal education. Poverty forces many children to work instead of attending school. Gender discrimination still keeps a large number of girls away from classrooms, especially in rural areas. Inadequate infrastructure, shortage of trained teachers and poor quality of teaching further compound the problem.

Quality education goes beyond textbooks. It develops critical thinking, creativity, problem-solving skills and moral values. Teachers play a pivotal role in this process. A motivated and well-trained teacher can inspire students and transform their lives. The government has launched several schemes such as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Mid-Day Meal Scheme and Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan to increase enrolment and reduce dropout rates. The introduction of digital education and online learning platforms during the COVID-19 pandemic opened new possibilities. However, the digital divide between urban and rural areas remains a serious

concern. Many students in remote villages still lack access to smartphones, internet and electricity.

For India to emerge as a knowledge superpower, education must be made equitable, inclusive and of high quality. Merely increasing literacy rates is not enough. The focus should shift to learning outcomes, skill development and values education. Only then can education truly become a tool for social transformation and national progress.

## **Passage 2**

Climate change has emerged as one of the greatest threats facing humanity in the twenty-first century. The Earth's average temperature has been rising steadily due to the excessive emission of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide. The primary sources of these emissions are the burning of fossil fuels for energy, industrial activities, deforestation and large-scale agriculture. The consequences of climate change are already visible across the globe. Melting glaciers are causing sea levels to rise, threatening low-lying coastal cities and island nations. Extreme weather events such as heatwaves, cyclones, floods and droughts have become more frequent and intense.

India is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change because of its long coastline, dependence on the monsoon for agriculture and large population living in poverty. Changing rainfall patterns are affecting crop yields and water availability. The Himalayan glaciers, which feed major rivers of the country, are retreating at an alarming rate. The government of India has taken several steps to address this challenge. It has committed to reducing the emission intensity of its GDP and increasing the share of non-fossil fuel energy under the Paris Agreement. Ambitious targets have been set for solar and wind energy capacity.

However, government action alone is not sufficient. Individual and collective efforts are equally important. Simple measures such as reducing electricity consumption, using public transport, planting trees, avoiding single-use plastics and adopting a more sustainable lifestyle can make a significant difference. Climate change is a global problem that requires international cooperation. Rich countries, which have historically contributed the most to emissions, must support developing nations with finance and technology. The choices we make today will determine the kind of planet we leave for future generations.

## **UNSOLVED**

### **Passage 3**

Social media has completely transformed the way people communicate, share information and interact with one another. Platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter (now X),

WhatsApp and YouTube have connected billions of people across the world in ways that were unimaginable a few decades ago. Social media allows instant communication, helps in spreading awareness about social causes, provides opportunities for education and business, and gives a voice to the common man. During natural disasters and emergencies, social media has often proved to be a powerful tool for sharing real-time information and organising relief work.

However, the rise of social media has also brought several serious problems. Excessive use of these platforms has led to addiction, especially among teenagers and young adults. Many people spend hours scrolling through feeds, which reduces the time available for studies, physical activity and face-to-face interactions. Studies have linked heavy social media use with increased levels of anxiety, depression, loneliness and low self-esteem. Cyberbullying has become a major concern, with many young people becoming victims of online harassment. The rapid spread of fake news and misinformation is another dangerous trend that can create social unrest and damage reputations.

Privacy is another major issue. Social media companies collect vast amounts of personal data, which is often used for targeted advertising or, in some cases, misused. Young users are particularly vulnerable because they may not fully understand the long-term consequences of sharing personal information online. Experts suggest that users should set strict time limits, verify information before sharing, protect their privacy settings and maintain a healthy balance between online and offline life. Social media is a powerful tool, but like any tool, its impact depends on how responsibly it is used.

#### **Passage 4**

Yoga is an ancient Indian system of physical, mental and spiritual practices that originated thousands of years ago. The word ‘yoga’ comes from the Sanskrit root ‘yuj’, which means to join or unite. It aims at the harmonious development of the body, mind and spirit. Yoga includes a combination of physical postures (asanas), breathing techniques (pranayama), meditation and ethical principles. In recent decades, yoga has gained enormous popularity across the world because of its numerous health benefits.

Regular practice of yoga improves flexibility, muscle strength, posture and balance. It helps in reducing stress, anxiety and depression by calming the mind. Scientific studies have shown that yoga can lower blood pressure, improve heart health, enhance lung capacity and help in the management of lifestyle diseases such as diabetes and arthritis. Unlike many modern fitness regimes that focus only on physical appearance, yoga promotes overall well-being and inner peace. It is suitable for people of all ages and physical conditions.

Recognising the global importance of yoga, the United Nations declared 21 June as the International Day of Yoga. Every year, millions of people across the world participate in yoga sessions on this day. In India, schools, colleges, offices and residential societies have started organising regular yoga classes. Many corporate organisations encourage employees to practise yoga to reduce workplace stress and improve productivity. The beauty of yoga lies in its simplicity and accessibility. It does not require expensive equipment or a special place. With regular practice, yoga can help individuals lead a healthier, more balanced and peaceful life in today's stressful world.

### **Passage 5**

Water is one of the most essential resources for the survival of all living beings. Although about seventy-one per cent of the Earth's surface is covered with water, only a very small fraction of it is freshwater that can be used for drinking, agriculture and industrial purposes. This limited freshwater is under severe pressure due to rapid population growth, urbanisation, industrialisation and climate change. In many parts of the world, including large regions of India, water scarcity has already become a serious crisis.

In India, the situation is particularly alarming. Groundwater levels are falling rapidly because of excessive extraction for irrigation and domestic use. Many rivers that were once perennial have become seasonal. Pollution from industrial waste, untreated sewage and agricultural chemicals has further reduced the availability of clean water. Millions of people, especially women and children in rural areas, still have to walk long distances to fetch water. The government has launched the Jal Jeevan Mission with the aim of providing piped water supply to every rural household. Efforts are also being made to rejuvenate rivers and promote water conservation.

However, government schemes alone cannot solve the problem. Every citizen has a responsibility to use water wisely. Simple practices such as fixing leaking taps, using buckets instead of showers, recycling water for gardening, rainwater harvesting and avoiding wastage can save large quantities of water. Traditional methods of water conservation, such as step wells, tanks and check dams, need to be revived. Water is a finite resource. If we continue to misuse it, future generations will face an even more severe crisis. Conserving water is not just an environmental necessity but a moral duty.

### **Passage 6**

Books have been the most reliable companions of human beings for centuries. They are a storehouse of knowledge, imagination, wisdom and experience. Reading books develops

vocabulary, improves language skills, sharpens the intellect and broadens one's outlook. A good book can transport the reader to different worlds, introduce them to new ideas and help them understand human nature better. In the age of the internet and smartphones, however, the habit of reading books is declining, especially among the younger generation.

Many young people prefer short videos, social media posts and online content that provide instant entertainment. While digital platforms have made information easily accessible, they often promote superficial reading. The experience of holding a physical book, turning its pages and getting lost in its world is unique and cannot be fully replaced by screens. Libraries continue to play a vital role in promoting the reading habit by providing free access to a wide variety of books. Reading regularly improves concentration, reduces stress and enhances creativity. It also helps in developing empathy by exposing readers to different cultures, perspectives and life situations.

Parents and teachers have an important responsibility to cultivate the love of reading among children from an early age. Storytelling sessions, book clubs, literary festivals and reading challenges can make reading more interesting. In a world full of distractions, books remain one of the most enriching and reliable sources of learning and entertainment. Those who develop the habit of reading books gain a lifelong advantage that no amount of digital content can provide.

### **Passage 7**

Sports and games play a crucial role in the all-round development of an individual. They are not merely a means of physical fitness but also a powerful medium for teaching important life skills such as discipline, teamwork, leadership, perseverance and sportsmanship. Regular participation in sports improves physical health, strengthens the immune system, enhances concentration and reduces stress and anxiety. For students, sports provide a healthy break from academic pressure and help in developing a balanced personality.

In India, sports have a rich tradition, yet the country has struggled to perform consistently at the international level in many disciplines. The main reasons for this include lack of adequate infrastructure, shortage of trained coaches, insufficient financial support and limited opportunities at the grassroots level. Many talented athletes from rural areas remain undiscovered because of the absence of proper facilities and guidance. In recent years, the government has taken several positive steps. The Khelo India programme aims to identify and nurture young sporting talent from every corner of the country. The success of athletes such as Neeraj Chopra, PV Sindhu, Mirabai Chanu and the Indian cricket and hockey teams has inspired millions of young Indians.



Schools and colleges must give equal importance to sports along with academics. Physical education should be treated as a serious subject and not as a free period. Encouraging sports at the school level will not only improve the fitness of the younger generation but also help India produce more world-class athletes in the future. A sporting culture benefits the entire nation by promoting health, unity and national pride.

### **Passage 8**

Plastic pollution has become one of the most serious environmental challenges of our time. Ever since plastic was invented, its convenience and low cost have led to its widespread use in almost every aspect of daily life. However, the very qualities that make plastic useful — durability and resistance to degradation — have turned it into a major threat to the environment. Single-use plastics such as bags, bottles, straws, packaging materials and disposable cutlery are used for a few minutes but remain in the environment for hundreds of years.

Plastic waste clogs drains, causes floods in cities, pollutes rivers and oceans, and harms marine life. Animals often mistake plastic for food, which leads to injury and death. Microplastics — tiny particles formed when larger plastic items break down — have entered the food chain and have been found in drinking water, seafood and even human blood. The long-term health effects of microplastics are still being studied, but they are a cause for serious concern. India generates millions of tonnes of plastic waste every year, a large portion of which is either burnt or dumped in landfills.

The government has banned several single-use plastic items and is promoting alternatives such as cloth bags, paper packaging and biodegradable materials. However, effective implementation and public cooperation are essential. Every individual can contribute by refusing unnecessary plastic, carrying reusable bags and bottles, segregating waste and supporting recycling. Plastic pollution is a man-made problem, and only collective human effort can solve it. Protecting the planet from plastic requires a change in both policy and personal habits.

### **Passage 9**

Mental health is as important as physical health, yet it has remained neglected and stigmatised for a very long time in most societies. Conditions such as depression, anxiety, stress and loneliness affect people of all ages, backgrounds and professions. In recent years, the number of young people suffering from mental health issues has increased significantly.

Academic pressure, intense competition, uncertain career prospects, social media comparison and lack of emotional support are some of the major factors contributing to this rise.

Many students feel overwhelmed by the expectations of parents, teachers and society. The fear of failure and the constant pressure to perform can lead to anxiety and depression. Unfortunately, talking about mental health is still considered a taboo in many families. People are often told to “be strong” or “stop overthinking” instead of being encouraged to seek help. This stigma prevents many individuals from getting timely support. Schools and colleges need to create a supportive environment where students can talk openly about their feelings. The presence of trained counsellors and regular awareness programmes can make a big difference.

Simple lifestyle practices can also help maintain good mental health. Regular physical exercise, adequate sleep, meditation, spending time with family and friends, and pursuing hobbies are effective ways to reduce stress. Seeking professional help when needed should be seen as a sign of strength, not weakness. Just as we care for our physical health by eating nutritious food and exercising, we must also prioritise our mental well-being. A healthy mind is essential for a happy and productive life.

#### Passage 10

Technology has brought about a revolution in almost every sphere of human life. From the way we communicate and work to the way we learn, travel and entertain ourselves, technology has transformed our daily existence. Smartphones, the internet, artificial intelligence, digital payments and online education have made life more convenient and efficient. Information that earlier took days or weeks to access is now available within seconds. Telemedicine has made healthcare accessible to people in remote areas, while online learning platforms have opened new educational opportunities.

However, the rapid advancement of technology has also created several challenges. Automation and artificial intelligence are threatening traditional jobs, leading to concerns about unemployment. Excessive use of digital devices, especially among children and teenagers, is affecting physical health, eyesight and sleep patterns. Face-to-face social interaction is declining as people spend more time online. Privacy and data security have become major concerns, with frequent reports of data breaches and cyber frauds. The digital divide between those who have access to technology and those who do not is further increasing social inequality.

Technology itself is neither good nor bad; its impact depends on how it is used. While we should embrace technological progress, we must also remain aware of its potential risks. Balancing the benefits of technology with ethical considerations, human values and mental well-being is the need of the hour. The goal should be to use technology as a tool that enhances human life rather than one that controls or diminishes it.

## GRAMMAR SECTION

### QUESTIONS ON GAP FILLING (TENSES & CLAUSES)

I. Choose the correct verb form from those in brackets:

1. Abdul \_\_\_\_\_ to be a doctor. (wants, wanting, is wanting)
2. The Soup \_\_\_\_\_ good. (taste, tastes, is tasting)
3. He \_\_\_\_\_ TV most evening. (watches, is watch, is watching)
4. He \_\_\_\_\_ out five minutes ago. (has gone, had gone, went)
5. When he lived in Hyderabad, he \_\_\_\_\_ to the cinema once a week. (goes, went, was going)
6. The baby \_\_\_\_\_ all morning. (cries, has been crying)
7. I \_\_\_\_\_ Rahim at the zoo yesterday. (saw, have seen, had seen)
8. I \_\_\_\_\_ Kumar this week. (haven't seen, didn't see, am not seeing)
9. This paper \_\_\_\_\_ twice weekly. (is appearing, appearing, appears)
10. Ashok fell off the ladder when he \_\_\_\_\_ the roof. (is mending, was mending, mended)

II. Complete the following sentences with suitable clauses:

1. He wants to know..... (Noun Clause)
2. The train ..... (Adjective Clause)
3. I remember the house of ..... (Adjective Clause)
4. He makes friends ..... (Adverb Clause)

5. He is ashamed of ..... (Noun Clause)

III. Identifying Adverb Clauses, underline the adverb clause in each sentence.

1. When I delivered the newspaper, I saw Mrs. Sharma at the window.
- 2 Because that clerk was so helpful, I praised her to the store manager.
- 3.You may play outside until it's dark.
- 4.Vinay becomes nervous when he speaks in public.
- 5.Please visit us whenever you are in India.

IV. Identifying Adjective Clauses. Underline the adjective clause in each of the following sentences.

1. Mike, whose ancestors came from London, marched in the parade.
2. The woman who lives next door is a registered nurse.
3. Switzerland is a place that I'd like to visit.
4. Maths, which is Karan's favourite subject, has always been easy for him.
5. There is the house that I'd like to buy.

V. Identifying Noun Clauses. Underline the noun clause in each sentence.

1. Do you know who is the governor of Punjab?
2. Ruby thinks that she will get the job at John's Store.
3. Whoever phoned us didn't let the phone ring long enough.
4. He promised that he'd be on time for the party.
5. Whether or not she should go camping worried Rohan.

### Sentence Reordering (Word Order)

Rearrange the following jumbled words to form meaningful sentences.

1. during / the baby / the night / several times / wakes up
2. our / keep / we / should / surroundings / clean
3. completely / being / deaf / can't / anything / he / hear
4. is / an / known / Jaipur / Pink City
5. experience / have / how much / you / got
6. by now / my letter / received / must have / he
7. the / because / missed / he / late / was / he / bus / the
8. a / need / healthy body / we / for / good food
9. the criminal / detained / by / was / the police
10. medical shops / drugs are / genuine / available in / most / of the
11. trees / industry / on / the / is / oil / reliant
12. by / were / farmers / the / exploited / Indian / English / the
13. to / be / her / Sudha / the / hard / class / is / working / in / order / best
14. humble / adversity / self-reliant / and / teaches / to be / man
15. the sufferings / aggravate / the poor / of / let us not
16. machine-civilization / human life / has made / artificial
17. gazing / he stood / serene expanse / at the / of the sea
18. India / population problem / it is / about the / high time / did something / that
19. courage / in instances / of / abounds / history
20. age / to / the / under / of / Children / are not permitted / eighteen / drive
21. have made / a popular / it / its / historical buildings / destination / tourist
22. failure / and / success / are / sides / of / a / coin / the / two
23. reading / is / one / greatest / pleasures / of / mankind / of the
24. because of / Delhi / earthquakes / its location / prone to / is
25. all the / error / arrested / suspects / plot / as soon as / the / were / terror / and / was thwarted

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## TRANSFORMATION OF SENTENCES

### Grammar: Direct and Indirect Speech (Narration)

#### Instructions

- Change the following sentences into Indirect Speech.
- Make all necessary changes in tense, pronouns, time expressions and punctuation.

Write complete sentences.

#### Exercise

1. The professor said, "You must submit your research papers by Monday."
2. She said, "Had I known about the meeting, I would have attended it."
3. The teacher said, "Why haven't you completed your assignment?"
4. The doctor said, "Avoid eating junk food if you want to recover quickly."
5. My father said, "Never lose hope, whatever the circumstances may be."
6. He said, "I have been waiting here for over an hour."
7. The tourist asked, "Could you tell me the way to the museum?"
8. The coach said, "Practice regularly if you wish to excel."
9. She said, "What an inspiring speech it was!"
10. The manager said, "The report must be submitted before noon."
11. The officer said, "Who authorised this payment?"
12. The teacher said, "The Earth revolves around the Sun."
13. My friend said, "I may shift to Bengaluru next month."
14. The judge said, "Let the witness enter the courtroom."
15. He said, "If I had worked harder, I would have secured better marks."

## **Grammar: Active and Passive Voice**

### **Instructions**

- Change the following sentences into the Passive Voice.
- Maintain the correct tense and meaning.
- Write complete sentences.

### **Exercise**

#### **Active Voice**

- 1 The government is building a new highway near the city.
- 2 The chef has prepared a delicious meal for the guests.
- 3 Fire destroyed the historic building last night.
- 4 The students were discussing the project topic.
- 5 She will finish the assignment before Monday.
- 6 Someone had already stolen his bicycle from the parking lot.
- 7 You must wear a helmet while riding a motorcycle.
- 8 The teacher expects us to submit the essays on time.
- 9 Post this letter immediately.
- 10 Who wrote this beautiful poem?

## **TRANSFORMATION OF SENTENCES**

### **Exercise**

DO AS DIRECTED

- 1- Seeing the baby, everyone smiled. (Simple to complex sentence)
  - 2- If you don't go now, you'll miss the train. (Change into a simple sentence)
  3. Although we were unsure, we decided to help. (Change into a compound sentence)
  - 4- They have completed the work. (Assertive to Interrogative sentence)
  - 5- She always finishes her work on time. (Affirmative to negative sentence)
- 

### **Classified Advertisement**

- Q1. You are the Principal of Blooming Dales School, Lucknow. Draft a classified advertisement for the post of a PGT (Physics) in your school.
- Q2. You are Vihaan/Vanya, you have recently completed your MBA in Marketing from a reputed institute. You want a suitable job in a multinational company in Bengaluru. Write a 'Situation Wanted' advertisement.
- Q3. You are Samay/Samara, your family is shifting to Chennai and you need a 3BHK house on rent in a good residential area. Draft an 'Accommodation Wanted' advertisement.
- Q4. You are Anil Grover. You own a 2BHK flat in Sea Green Colony in Hyderabad. You want to give it on rent. Write a 'To Let' advertisement.
- Q5. You are Kabir Desai and you want to sell your second-hand Honda City car which is in excellent condition. Write a 'For Sale' advertisement.
- Q6. You are Peter/Rosy of Green Field colony, Delhi. You have lost your school bag containing important books and documents while travelling in Metro from Rajiv Chowk to Botanic Garden. Write a 'Lost and Found' advertisement.
- Q7. A reputed coaching institute 'Vidya Engineering Institute' in Delhi requires a full-time Mathematics faculty for JEE preparation. Write a 'Situation Vacant' advertisement.
- Q8. You are Shivaay/Shivanya, a B.Tech graduate with 1 year experience in software development. Draft a 'Situation Wanted' advertisement for a job in Pune.
- Q9. You are Sujit/Sujata and your family needs a paying guest accommodation for your brother who is studying in Chandigarh. Write an 'Accommodation Wanted' advertisement.



Q10. You are Nirvan/Naina, you wish to rent out your independent house in Sundar Nagar, Jaipur. Prepare a 'To Let' advertisement giving all necessary details.

Q11. You are Rohan Mehta of Sector 15, Noida. You want to sell your almost new Samsung 55-inch Smart LED TV (3 months old, under warranty) along with its original bill and remote. Draft a suitable 'For Sale' advertisement in not more than 50 words.

Q12. You are Priya/Pranav of Model Town, Delhi. You lost your black leather wallet containing your Aadhaar card, PAN card, some cash and a family photograph while travelling in a DTC bus from ISBT to Model Town. Write a 'Lost and Found' advertisement for a local newspaper.

Q13. You are the father/mother of a well-educated, good-looking girl (26 years, M.Sc. Biotechnology, working in a reputed company in Gurgaon). Draft a suitable matrimonial advertisement seeking a suitable match.

Q14. Your pet dog (Golden Retriever, male, 2 years old, golden coat, answers to the name 'Bruno') went missing from your house in Vasant Kunj, New Delhi on 20 August 2026. Draft a 'Missing' advertisement giving necessary details and contact information.

Q15. Draft an obituary notice for a local newspaper on the sudden demise of your grandfather, Shri Ramesh Chandra Sharma (aged 78 years), who passed away peacefully on 18 August 2026 at his residence in Civil Lines, Allahabad. Include necessary details

## **POSTER WRITING**

### **CLASS XI**

#### **Structure of an Exam-Ready Poster**

When you write a poster in your answer sheet, structure it vertically using this hierarchy:

1. CATCHY TITLE  
(Bold / Capital Letters)
2. A PUNCHY SLOGAN OR TAGLINE
3. THE CORE MESSAGE / FEATURES
  - Point 1 (Use bullets)
  - Point 2 (Keep phrases short)
  - Point 3 (No full paragraphs)
4. EVENT DETAILS (If applicable)
  - Date: [DD/MM/YYYY]
  - Time: [00:00 AM/PM]

- Venue: [Location]

#### 5. A VISUAL ELEMENT

(A very basic sketch, symbol, or a boxed sub-slogan)

#### 6. ISSUED BY: [Name of Organization/Authority]

### **Types of Posters & Examples**

You will generally encounter two types of posters in your Class 11 exam:

#### 1. Social Awareness Issues (e.g., Save Earth, Say No to Plastics, Road Safety)

These focus on educating the public or asking for a behavioural change.

Key Elements: Strong slogans, causes/effects of the issue, and actions the public can take.

#### 2. Event Invitations (e.g., School Carnival, Blood Donation Camp, Book Fair)

These focus on inviting people to a specific place at a specific time.

Key Elements: Date, time, venue, entry fee (if any), and special attractions.

### **❌ Critical Mistakes to Avoid**

Writing full paragraphs: Posters use fragmented phrases, bullets, and commands (e.g., *"Switch off fans"* instead of *"You should switch off the fans when you leave"*).

Forgetting the Box: Always draw the border with a pencil and ruler. A missing box costs easy format marks.

Wasting time on art: Do not spend 15 minutes shading a drawing with colored pencils. A rough 30-second pencil sketch or a geometric shape highlighting a word is more than enough.

Omitting the Issuing Authority: A poster must always state who is publishing it at the very bottom (e.g., *Issued in public interest by: Delhi Traffic Police*).

### **The Poster Blueprint**

Most effective posters follow this specific order. If you stick to this, you'll never miss a point.

The Box: Always, *always* draw a box. It defines your space.

The Title (Caps): Keep it short and in uppercase.

The Visual/Slogan: Add a catchy tagline related to the theme.

The Details: Address the "5 Ws":

What: What is the event or issue?

Who: Who is it for?

Where: Venue/Location.

When: Date and time.

Why: A brief benefit or call to action.

The Issuing Authority: Who is printing this? (e.g., "Issued by: Health Department").

Example: A "Save Water" Poster

Here is how you should structure it on your answer sheet. Notice how the information is scannable and the language is imperative.

SAVE WATER, SAVE LIFE *Every Drop Counts, Don't Let It Run Dry!* |

Why Save Water?

Essential for survival

Crucial for future generations

Simple Ways to Help:

Fix leaking taps immediately

Use a bucket, not a hose, to wash cars

Rainwater harvesting is the way forward

"WATER: OUR MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE - USE WISELY"

Issued by:

The Green Earth Foundation

The "Must-Have" Checklist

If you're running low on time, scan this table to ensure you've hit the requirements.

| Component | Why it matters                                              |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Title     | Acts as the "hook" to grab attention.                       |
| Slogan    | Makes the message memorable.                                |
| Brevity   | Exam boards usually have a 50-word cap. Don't write essays. |
| Box       | Keeps the visual content neat and contained.                |
| Clarity   | Use bullet points instead of long paragraphs.               |

**A few "peer-to-peer" tips for your exam:**

Don't over-illustrate: You're graded on the English, not your drawing skills. A simple, relevant sketch (like a water drop or a tree) is enough.

Keep it punchy: Avoid passive voice. Use verbs like "Stop," "Join," "Save," or "Celebrate."

Use whitespace: Don't cram the box. Space makes it readable.

### Question 1: Say No to Plastics

**Design a poster on behalf of the Department of Environment, Govt. of NCT Delhi, advising people to eliminate the use of plastics.**

+-----+  
|  
| SAY NO TO PLASTICS!  
|  
| "Plastic is Drastic - Ban the Plastic!"  
|  
| WHY CHOOSE PLASTIC-FREE?  
| • Non-biodegradable: Chokes our planet for centuries  
| • Kills marine life and strangles stray animals  
| • Releases toxic gases when burned  
|  
| CHOOSE GREEN ALTERNATIVES:  
| ✓ Jute bags                      ✓ Cloth bags                      ✓ Paper containers  
|  
| RECYCLE TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW!  
|  
| Issued in public interest by:  
| Department of Environment, Govt. of NCT Delhi  
|  
+-----+

### Question 2: Save Water

**Draft a creative poster highlighting the importance of water conservation for your school notice board.**

+-----+

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>SAVE WATER, SAVE LIFE!</p> <p>"Every Drop Counts! Don't Let Your Future Run Dry."</p> <p>THE HARD REALITY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groundwater levels are depleting fast</li> <li>• Millions face acute water scarcity daily</li> </ul> <p>SIMPLE STEPS TO TAKE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fix leaking taps and pipes immediately</li> <li>• Turn off the tap while brushing teeth</li> <li>• Adopt Rainwater Harvesting in homes</li> </ul> <p>CONSERVE WATER, SECURE THE FUTURE!</p> <p>Issued by:<br/>The Eco-Club, Springdale Senior Secondary School</p> |
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### Question 3: Anti-Crackers Campaign

**On the occasion of Diwali, design a poster for the general public warning them against the hazards of bursting crackers.**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>CELEBRATE A CLEAN &amp; GREEN DIWALI!</p> <p>"Say NO to Crackers, Say YES to Life!"</p> <p>CRACKERS BRING ONLY HARM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Toxic Smoke: Suffocates asthma patients and infants</li> <li>• Deafening Noise: Terrifies pets and stray animals</li> <li>• Huge Waste: Litters streets with chemical debris</li> </ul> <p>LET'S LIGHT LAMPS, NOT FIRECRACKERS!</p> <p>Spread love, distribute sweets, and plant trees this year.</p> <p>Issued by:<br/>Resident Welfare Association (RWA), Green Park, New Delhi</p> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### Question 4: Road Safety

**Draft a poster for the Traffic Police department to spread awareness about safe driving habits among young citizens.**

|                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>DRIVE SAFE, ARRIVE SAFE!</p> <p>"Alert Today, Alive Tomorrow. Speed Kills!"</p> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

GOLDEN RULES OF THE ROAD:

- Always wear a helmet (two-wheelers) or seatbelt (cars)
- NEVER use your mobile phone while driving
- Do not drink and drive
- Follow speed limits and traffic lights strictly

YOUR FAMILY IS WAITING FOR YOU AT HOME!

Issued by:

Traffic Police Cell, Meerut District

### Question 5: Importance of Reading / Book Week

**Design a poster to be displayed in your school to motivate students to read more books during National Book Week.**

READING MAKES A FULL MAN!

"Books are Quietest and Most Constant Friends."

WHY READ MORE?

- Expands your imagination and knowledge
- Improves vocabulary and communication skills
- Reduces stress and sharpens the brain

VISIT YOUR SCHOOL LIBRARY TODAY!

Explore Worlds Unseen • Meet Characters Unforgettable

Issued by:

The Literary Club, National Public School

### Question 6: Female Foeticide / Save the Girl Child

**Draft a poster on behalf of an NGO raising awareness against female foeticide and promoting girl education.**

SAVE AND EDUCATE THE GIRL CHILD!

"A Girl Child Brings Joy, She Is Not A Burden."

PROTECT HER RIGHTS:

- Say a strict NO to female foeticide
- Provide equal health and nutrition care
- Send her to school—education empowers everyone

WHEN YOU EDUCATE A GIRL, YOU EDUCATE A NATION!

Issued by:

Nari Shakti Foundation, India

### Question 7: Cyber Security Awareness

**Design a poster on behalf of the Cyber Crime Cell to educate high school students about online safety.**

STAY CYBER SAFE & SMART!

"Think Before You Click! Protect Your Digital Space."

ESSENTIAL SAFETY TIPS:

- Never share passwords, OTPs, or personal addresses
- Do not accept friend requests from total strangers
- Avoid clicking on suspicious email links or pop-ups
- Report cyberbullying to teachers or parents immediately

BE SECURE ONLINE, STAY PEACEFUL OFFLINE!

Issued by:

Cyber Crime Awareness Cell, City Police

### Question 8: Health and Fitness

**Draft a poster for your school gymnasium encouraging students to lead a physically active and healthy lifestyle.**

HEALTH IS WEALTH!

"Eat Clean, Move Daily, Breathe Fresh, Stay Healthy!"

YOUR DAILY FITNESS GUIDE:

- Exercise daily for at least 30 minutes
- Skip junk food—embrace green vegetables and fresh fruits
- Drink 8-10 glasses of water everyday
- Rest well: Secure 7-8 hours of sleep

A HEALTHY MIND RESIDES IN A HEALTHY BODY!

Issued by:

Department of Physical Education, Sunrise Academy

### Question 9: Blood Donation Camp

**Your school is organizing a Blood Donation Camp. Design a poster inviting local residents and parents to donate blood.**

DONATE BLOOD, SAVE LIVES!

"Your Blood Can Give Someone A Second Chance At Life."

JOIN OUR MEGA BLOOD DONATION CAMP!

- Date: 25th July 2026
- Time: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
- Venue: School Auditorium, DAV Public School, Meerut

WHO CAN DONATE? Any healthy adult aged 18-60 years.

Free health check-up and certificate provided to all donors!

Issued by:

Red Cross Unit & Management, DAV Public School

### Question 10: School Science Exhibition

**As the Secretary of the Science Club, draft a poster inviting students from neighboring schools to visit an upcoming Science Exhibition.**

EXPLORE THE WONDERS OF SCIENCE!

"Invention, Innovation, and Inspiration Unleashed!"



|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>ANNUAL SCIENCE EXHIBITION - 'VIGYAN 2026'</p> <p>Come see working models, live experiments, and tech robotics!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dates: 12th &amp; 13th August 2026</li> <li>Timings: 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM</li> <li>Venue: Senior Science block, Modern School</li> </ul> <p>ENTRY IS ABSOLUTELY FREE!</p> <p>Issued by:<br/>Secretary, Science Club, Modern School, Meerut</p> |
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### Question 11: Charity Carnival for Flood Victims

**Your club is organizing a Cultural Carnival to raise funds for flood victims. Draft a poster inviting people to attend.**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>CARNIVAL FOR A NOBLE CAUSE!</p> <p>"Enjoy a Fun Day and Help Heal a Broken Life."</p> <p>FEATURING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food Stalls</li> <li>Games &amp; Rides</li> <li>Live Music Show</li> </ul> <p>DETAILS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Date: Sunday, 20th September 2026</li> <li>Venue: City Club Grounds, Civil Lines</li> <li>Ticket: ₹100 per person (All proceeds go to Relief Fund)</li> </ul> <p>COME ONE, COME ALL! SUPPORT RAHAT!</p> <p>Issued by:<br/>Youth Welfare Club, Meerut District</p> |
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### Question 12: Lost and Found / Pet Missing Notice

**Your pet dog went missing from the Central Park area. Draft a poster to be posted around your colony offering a reward.**

|                     |
|---------------------|
| <p>MISSING PET!</p> |
|---------------------|

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>HELP US FIND OUR BELOVED 'ROCKY'</p> <p>DESCRIPTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breed: Golden Retriever (Male, 2 years old)</li> <li>• Features: Wearing a red collar, light golden fur, friendly</li> <li>• Last Seen: Near Central Park Main Gate on July 8th, 2026</li> </ul> <p>If found, please contact: Mr. Sharma at 98xxxxxx01<br/>A HANDSOME REWARD OF ₹5,000 AWAITS THE KIND FINDER!</p> <p>Issued by:<br/>The Sharma Family, House No. 45, Sector-4, Meerut</p> |
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### Question 13: Tree Plantation Drive

**Draft a poster for a tree plantation drive being organized by your residential society on World Environment Day.**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>PLANT A TREE, GREEN THE EARTH!</p> <p>"Each One, Plant One! Breathe Clean Air."</p> <p>JOIN OUR GREEN DRIVE!<br/>Let us turn our concrete jungle back into a living forest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Date: 5th June 2026</li> <li>• Time: 7:30 AM onwards</li> <li>• Meeting Point: Central Community Park, Shanti Enclave</li> </ul> <p>Saplings will be provided free of cost to all volunteers!</p> <p>Issued by:<br/>Managing Committee, Shanti Enclave Welfare Association</p> |
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### Question 14: Disaster Management Safety Drill

**The Resident Welfare Association wants to organize an Earthquake Safety Workshop. Create an informative poster.**

|                                   |
|-----------------------------------|
| <p>EARTHQUAKE SAFETY WORKSHOP</p> |
|-----------------------------------|

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>"Preparation is the Key to Survival!"</b></p> <p>LEARN LIFE-SAVING TECHNIQUES FROM EXPERTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to: DROP, COVER, and HOLD ON</li> <li>• Creating an emergency survival kit at home</li> </ul> <p>WORKSHOP SCHEDULE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Date: 30th August 2026</li> <li>• Time: 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM</li> <li>• Venue: Community Hall, Block C, Meerut</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>BE AWARE, BE PREPARED, STAY SAFE!</b></p> <p>Issued by:<br/>RWA Management Committee in association with NDMA</p> |
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### Question 15: Anti-Ragging Awareness

**Draft a poster on behalf of the Principal of a college warning senior students against the practices of ragging.**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>RAGGING IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE!</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>"Say absolute NO to Ragging. Protect Dignity!"</b></p> <p>RAGGING IN ANY FORM LEADS TO STRICT PUNISHMENT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediate expulsion from the college and hostel</li> <li>• Permanent blacklisting of student records</li> <li>• Rigorous police arrest and judicial trial</li> </ul> <p>Seniors: Welcome your juniors with love, care, and respect!<br/>24/7 Helpline Number: 1800-xx-xxxx</p> <p>Issued by:<br/>Office of the Principal, Excellence Degree College, Meerut</p> |
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### **LONG WRITING TASK- SPEECH WRITING**

#### **1. World Environment Day**

You are the Head Boy/Head Girl of your school. On the occasion of World Environment Day, prepare a speech for the morning assembly highlighting the importance of protecting the environment and suggesting practical measures students can adopt to make the campus greener.

Ans 1. World Environment Day

Protecting Our Environment

Respected Principal sir, teachers and my dear friends,

A very good morning to everyone.

Today, I feel honoured to speak on the occasion of World Environment Day. Our environment is facing serious challenges due to pollution, deforestation and excessive use of natural resources. If we do not act now, future generations will suffer.

As students, we can make a difference by planting trees, conserving water, reducing the use of plastic and keeping our surroundings clean. We should also practice the three Rs—Reduce, Reuse and Recycle—in our daily lives.

Every small effort counts. Let us pledge to become responsible citizens and work together to make our school and community cleaner, greener and healthier.

Thank you.

Value Points-

Importance of environment

Environmental problems

Student responsibilities

Practical measures

Conclusion with a pledge

## 2. Responsible Use of Technology

As the Cultural Secretary of your school, prepare a speech on the topic "Responsible Use of Technology" to create awareness among students about maintaining a healthy balance between digital life and real life.

## Ans 2. Responsible Use of Technology

### Responsible Use of Technology

Respected Principal sir, teachers and dear friends,

Good morning to everyone.

Technology has become an inseparable part of our lives. It helps us learn, communicate and stay informed. However, excessive use of mobile phones and social media often leads to distraction, stress and poor academic performance.

We must use technology wisely by limiting screen time, avoiding unnecessary social media and using digital resources mainly for learning and creativity. Spending quality time with family, reading books and engaging in outdoor activities are equally important.

Technology is a wonderful servant but a poor master. Let us use it responsibly to build a brighter future.

Thank you.

### Value Points-

Benefits of technology

Problems due to misuse

Balanced use

Healthy habits

Positive conclusion

## 3. Importance of Reading

Your school is organising a Reading Week. As the Library Prefect, draft a speech encouraging students to develop the habit of reading books and explaining how reading contributes to personal and academic growth.

## 4. Health is Wealth

As the Health Club Secretary, prepare a speech for the morning assembly on the importance of a healthy lifestyle, balanced diet, regular exercise and mental well-being among teenagers.

## 5. Say No to Plastic

Your school has launched a campaign to reduce plastic waste. As the Eco Club President, prepare a speech motivating students to avoid single-use plastics and adopt eco-friendly alternatives.

6. Value of Time

As the School Captain, deliver a speech on "Time Management – The Key to Success", explaining how effective planning and discipline help students achieve their goals.

7. Road Safety Awareness

A Road Safety Week is being observed in your city. As the Head Boy/Head Girl, prepare a speech for the school assembly highlighting the importance of following traffic rules and promoting responsible behaviour on roads.

8. Power of Kindness

Prepare a speech on the topic "Kindness Begins with Me" to inspire students to practise empathy, respect and compassion in their daily lives.

9. Importance of Sports and Games

As the Sports Captain, prepare a speech encouraging students to participate actively in sports and games, highlighting their role in developing physical fitness, teamwork and leadership.

10. Role of Youth in Nation Building

Your school is celebrating Independence Day. As the Head Boy/Head Girl, prepare a speech on "The Role of Youth in Nation Building", inspiring students to become responsible, ethical and active citizens.

### DEBATE WRITING

1. **Artificial Intelligence is Doing More Harm than Good to Students.** As Aarav, the President of the IT Club of your school, write a debate in 120–150 words either for or against the motion.

**Example:**

## 1. FOR THE MOTION

**Honourable Judges, respected teachers and my worthy opponents,**

Good morning to all. I, **Aarav**, stand before you to speak **for** the motion, '*Artificial Intelligence is Doing More Harm than Good to Students.*'

Artificial Intelligence has undoubtedly made learning easier, but it is also making students mentally dependent. Instead of thinking independently, many students simply ask AI tools to solve problems, write essays or complete assignments. As a result, creativity, critical thinking and problem-solving skills are declining.

Moreover, AI encourages shortcuts. Many students submit AI-generated work without understanding the concepts. This promotes plagiarism and weakens academic honesty. Excessive dependence on AI also reduces reading habits, curiosity and the willingness to make genuine efforts.

Another serious concern is misinformation. AI does not always provide accurate or reliable answers. Students who accept every response without verification may develop misconceptions.

Some may contend that AI saves time and improves learning. I agree that it is a useful tool, but when students depend on it for every task, learning becomes mechanical rather than meaningful.

Therefore, AI should remain a learning aid, not a substitute for thinking. Let us use technology wisely instead of allowing it to weaken our abilities.

**Thank you.**

## AGAINST THE MOTION

**Honourable Judges, respected teachers and my worthy opponents,**

Good morning to everyone. I, **Aarav**, rise to speak **against** the motion, '*Artificial Intelligence is Doing More Harm than Good to Students.*'

Artificial Intelligence is one of the greatest educational innovations of our time. It provides instant explanations, personalised learning and access to quality educational resources. Students can clarify doubts at any time, revise difficult topics and learn at their own pace.

AI also supports creativity. It helps students generate ideas, improve writing, practise languages and perform virtual experiments. It enables learners from remote areas to access knowledge that was once beyond their reach.

It is often argued that AI promotes laziness and plagiarism. However, the problem is not AI but its misuse. Calculators did not destroy mathematics, and the internet did not end

learning. Similarly, AI is only a tool. Responsible students use it to understand concepts, not to avoid effort.

In today's digital world, AI literacy is an essential skill. Schools should teach students how to use AI ethically and responsibly rather than discourage its use.

Therefore, Artificial Intelligence is empowering students, expanding learning opportunities and preparing them for the future. It is doing far more good than harm.

**Thank you.**

### **QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE**

2. Your school is organizing an Inter-House Debate Competition on the topic **'Social Media Has Become the Biggest Threat to Teenagers' Mental Health.'** As Riya, the Cultural Secretary of your school, write a debate in 120–150 words either for or against the motion.
3. You have been selected to represent your school in an Inter-School Debate Competition. The topic is **'Online Learning Can Never Replace Classroom Teaching.'** As Kabir, write a debate in 120–150 words either for or against the motion.
4. As Ananya, the Vice-President of the Literary Club of your school, draft a debate in 120–150 words either for or against the motion **'Video Games Improve Skills More than They Harm Students.'**
5. Your school has organised a debate on the topic **'Examinations Should Give Greater Importance to Skills than Marks.'** As Vivaan, a student of Class XII, write a debate in 120–150 words either for or against the motion.
6. The English Literary Society of your school is conducting a debate on **'Influencers Have More Negative than Positive Impact on Teenagers.'** As Mehak, write a debate in 120–150 words either for or against the motion.
7. You are participating in a Youth Parliament Debate on the topic **'Homework Causes More Stress than Learning.'** As Arjun, write a debate in 120–150 words either for or against the motion.
8. As Siya, the Secretary of the Science Club, prepare a debate in 120–150 words either for or against the motion **'Space Exploration Should Be Given Priority Over Solving Earth's Problems.'**
9. Your school is hosting an Inter-School Debate Competition on the topic **'Surveillance Cameras Should Be Installed in All Public Places.'** As Dev, write a debate in 120–150 words either for or against the motion.
10. The Career Counselling Cell of your school has organized a debate on the topic **'Competitive Examinations Should Be the Primary Criterion for Admission to Higher**



**Education.'** As Ishita, write a debate in 120–150 words either for or against the motion.

### **ANSWER KEYS- Comprehension passages**

#### **Passage 2 Answer Key**

##### **MCQs**

1. b) The participation of ordinary people in scientific research
2. b) Monitoring bird populations and river quality
3. b) Upload observations with photographs and locations
4. b) To ensure accurate and reliable data

##### **Other Answers**

5. By collecting data from many people.
6. Any two: monitoring rivers/counting birds/recording flowering/reporting rare species.
7. To verify accuracy.
8. False

#### **Passage 3 Answer Key**

##### **MCQs**

1. b) Computer systems capable of performing tasks requiring human intelligence
2. b) Analysing medical images and assisting doctors
3. c) They adapt learning according to students' needs
4. c) Concerns about jobs and data privacy

##### **Other Answers**

5. Facial recognition; personalised recommendations.
6. To help understand difficult topics.
7. Creativity, empathy, ethical judgement, critical thinking.
8. wisely

### **Passage 4 Answer Key**

#### MCQs

1. c) He searched for the lessons hidden in stories
2. b) He followed a newly visible path after the rain
3. b) Silence and inner peace
4. b) Learned to adapt without losing its character

#### Other Answers

5. To write observations.
6. The surface became calm and reflected nature.
7. A peaceful mind.
8. adapt

### **Passage 5 Answer Key**

#### MCQs

1. b) Meet present needs without harming future generations
2. c) Expansion of coal-based power plants
3. b) Encourage healthier lifestyles and reduce pollution
4. b) Notify authorities when bins need emptying

#### Other Answers

5. Better education, healthcare and jobs.
6. Cycling tracks; electric buses.
7. Citizen participation ensures success.
8. False

### **Passage 6 Answer Key**

#### MCQs

1. b) To listen to the violinist's music
2. b) His ideas were too ordinary
3. c) Begins with uncertain notes

4. b) Writing regularly despite mistakes

Other Answers

5. To become a writer.

6. Don't wait for perfection; begin.

7. He inspired courage.

8. failure

### **Passage 7 Answer Key**

MCQs

1. c) Once lost, it cannot be recovered

2. b) Discipline

3. b) Find time for exercise, sleep, hobbies and family

4. b) Time management and discipline promote growth

Other Answers

5. They follow a timetable.

6. It causes procrastination.

7. Punctuality and self-discipline.

8. procrastination

### **Passage 8 Answer Key**

MCQs

1. b) Strings of yellow lights

2. c) Electronic gadgets

3. b) Traditional music

4. b) Reflected culture, history and community

Other Answers

5. Fresh bread, coffee, sweets.

6. Children enjoyed balloons; elders recalled memories.

7. Colours, music, charm.

8. False

### **Passage 9 Answer Key**

MCQs

1. b) Prepare responsible and capable citizens
2. b) Excessive dependence reduces concentration
3. c) Creativity, perseverance, honesty and curiosity
4. b) Critical thinking

Other Answers

5. It creates stress.
6. Sports and debates.
7. Failure teaches lessons.
8. character

### **Passage 10 Answer Key**

MCQs

1. b) It was the only untouched page
2. b) Poems, sketches, pressed flowers and observations
3. c) Symbolise new beginnings and possibilities
4. b) She understood its symbolic meaning

Other Answers

5. They recorded meaningful moments.
6. Hope and new beginnings.
7. To begin her own journey.
8. inherited

**(WITH VISUAL INPUTS AND SATATISTICAL DATA)**

**(FOR 8 MARKS)**

## **ANSWER KEY**

### **PASSAGE -1**

- 1        b
- 2        a
- 3        c (22% of 5,000 = 1,100)
- 4        a
- 5        Digital literacy is important because it enables people to use digital payment systems safely, protect their personal and financial information, and avoid cyber fraud.
- 6        Consumers should be encouraged to use strong passwords and two-factor authentication. Regular awareness campaigns on cyber safety and prompt reporting mechanisms for online fraud can also increase trust in digital payment systems.

### **PASSAGE-2**

- Q1       b
- Q2       a
- Q3       b (3,000)
- Q4       c
- Q5. Technology has improved road safety through speed cameras, AI-enabled traffic monitoring systems, and emergency response services. These help in detecting accidents and enforcing traffic laws.
- Q6 Individuals should always obey traffic rules, avoid over-speeding and distracted driving, wear helmets and seat belts, and remain patient at traffic signals. Responsible behaviour by every road user can significantly reduce the number of preventable road accidents. (2 marks)

### **PASSAGE -3**

- (i)       B

(ii) C

(iii) C

(iv) Above 60 years

(v) Technological advancement can expand digital payments, but consumer protection is necessary to build trust and prevent fraud. Both are essential for a safe and inclusive digital financial system.

(vi) Older users may be less familiar with digital technology and more concerned about online fraud. The passage stresses the need for digital literacy and cyber safety awareness, while the survey shows that the above 60 age group relies more on cash than younger users.

#### **PASSAGE -4**

Q1 b

Q2 a

Q3 c (24% of 2,000 = 480)

Q4 Express their emotions without the fear of judgement

Q5 Open communication and a supportive family environment help individuals express their feelings and concerns without fear. This provides emotional security and contributes to greater emotional stability.

Q6. Students can protect their mental well-being by maintaining a balanced routine with adequate sleep and regular physical activity. They should also limit excessive social media use, communicate openly with trusted family members or teachers, and seek professional help whenever prolonged stress or anxiety begins to affect their daily lives.

#### **PASSAGE -5**

i (c)

ii (c)

iii (d)

iv medium

v (a) Table 2 shows that 40% of students prefer e-books and 25% prefer online articles. Together, these screen-based formats account for 65% of reading preferences, supporting

the passage's claim that students increasingly access reading material through digital devices rather than printed books.

v (b) Table 3 reveals that lack of time (38%) and social media distraction (34%) are more significant barriers than academic pressure (18%). This suggests that students' reading habits are influenced more by competing digital distractions and time constraints than by their academic workload alone.

### **PASSAGE -6**

i (b)

ii (c)

iii human guidance, independent thinking and ethical responsibility (or any acceptable equivalent)

iv Excessive reliance on AI may weaken critical thinking and creativity. Students may also become dependent on AI and stop making independent attempts to solve problems.

v (a) True

vi Schools should organise digital literacy and AI ethics programmes to teach students how to verify AI-generated information. They should also encourage project-based learning, discussions, and problem-solving activities that promote critical thinking, ensuring students use AI as a support tool rather than becoming dependent on it.

### **PASSAGE -7**

Answer Key

1. B. Habits matter.

2. C. 68% ( $32\% + 24\% + 12\% = 68\%$ )

3. False. The passage states that schools play a crucial role in promoting water conservation by encouraging students to conduct water audits, spread awareness, and adopt conservation practices.

4. sustainable

5. Any two: repair leaking taps immediately, reduce the duration of showers, turn off taps while brushing teeth or washing utensils., Operate washing machines only with full loads.

6. The author describes water conservation as an investment in the well-being of future generations because saving water today helps ensure that adequate freshwater resources remain available in the future. It promotes sustainable use of resources, protects the environment, and reduces the risk of water scarcity for coming generations.

### **PASSAGE – 8**

1. B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
2. B. 10.15
3. B.
4. PMKVY 4.0 provides training to learners across various sectors and districts. It also introduces future-oriented roles in AI, green jobs, Industry 4.0, and digital services, preparing youth for emerging careers.
5. False
6. The increase in employability indicates that greater emphasis on skill-based education, vocational training, digital learning, and experiential learning is helping students become better prepared for the changing demands of the job market.

### **PASSAGE – 9**

1. A. Rising temperatures have increased the duration of heat waves.
2. B. 16 days
3. B. build climate resilience
4. Urban areas experience the urban heat island effect, in which concrete buildings and roads absorb and retain heat. This results in higher temperatures in cities.
5. D. 2023–2024
6. Students and the community can help reduce the impact of heat waves by planting more trees to increase green cover and by conserving energy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. They should also stay hydrated, follow heat advisories, and spread awareness about climate-friendly practices.

### **PASSAGE – 10**



1. C. 34 lakh
2. B. reduce carbon emissions
3. False.
4. High initial purchase costs, limited charging facilities, battery recycling issues, and concerns about driving range are major challenges to widespread EV adoption.
5. A. EV registrations increased steadily every year.
6. The increasing trend indicates that people are becoming more aware of environmental issues and are gradually accepting electric vehicles as a cleaner and more sustainable mode of transport. Government incentives, improved charging infrastructure, and technological advancements have also encouraged this shift.

### **GRAMMAR SECTION**

#### **QUESTIONS ON GAP FILLING (TENSES & CLAUSES)**

#### **ANSWERS**

- I. Choose the correct verb form:
  1. Wants
  2. Tastes
  3. Watches
  4. Went
  5. Went
  6. Has been crying
  7. Saw
  8. Haven't seen
  9. Appears
  10. Was mending
- II. Complete the following sentences
  1. He wants to know where I live. (Noun Clause)

2. The train that arrives at 8 o'clock is always late. (Adjective Clause)
3. I remember the house where I was born. (Adjective Clause)
4. He makes friends wherever he goes. (Adverb Clause)
5. He is ashamed of what he has done. (Noun Clause)

III. Identifying Adverb Clauses

1. When I delivered the newspaper
2. Because that clerk was so helpful
3. Until it's dark
4. When he speaks in public
5. Whenever you are in India

IV. Identifying Adjective Clauses

1. Whose ancestors came from London
2. Who lives next door
3. That I'd like to visit
4. Which is Karan's favourite subject
5. That I'd like to buy

V. Identifying Noun Clauses

1. Who is the governor of Punjab
2. That she will get the job at John's Store
3. Whoever phoned us
4. That he'd be on time for the party
5. Whether or not she should go camping

**English Grammar**

**Sentence Reordering (Word Order)    🔑 Answer Key**

1. The baby wakes up several times during the night.

2. We should keep our surroundings clean.
3. Being completely deaf, he can't hear anything.
4. Jaipur is known as the Pink City.
5. How much experience have you got?
6. He must have received my letter by now.
7. He missed the bus because he was late.
8. We need good food for a healthy body.
9. The criminal was detained by the police.
10. Most of the genuine drugs are available in medical shops.
11. The oil industry is reliant on trees.
12. The Indian farmers were exploited by the English.
13. Sudha is working hard in order to be the best in her class.
14. Adversity teaches a man to be humble and self-reliant.
15. Let us not aggravate the sufferings of the poor.
16. Machine-civilization has made human life artificial.
17. He stood gazing at the serene expanse of the sea.
18. It is high time that India did something about the population problem.
19. History abounds in instances of courage.
20. Children under the age of eighteen are not permitted to drive.
21. Its historical buildings have made it a popular tourist destination.
22. Failure and success are the two sides of a coin.
23. Reading is one of the greatest pleasures of mankind.
24. Delhi is prone to earthquakes because of its location.
25. As soon as the plot was thwarted, all the terror suspects were arrested.

## **TRANSFORMATION OF SENTENCES**

### **Grammar: Direct and Indirect Speech (Narration)**

## **DIRECT INDIRECT ANSWERS**

1. The professor said that I had to submit my research papers by Monday.
2. She said that if she had known about the meeting, she would have attended it.
3. The teacher asked me why I had not completed my assignment.
4. The doctor advised me to avoid eating junk food if I wanted to recover quickly.
5. My father advised me never to lose hope, whatever the circumstances might be.
6. He said that he had been waiting there for over an hour.
7. The tourist asked me if I could tell him the way to the museum.
8. The coach advised me to practise regularly if I wished to excel.
9. She exclaimed with admiration that it was a very inspiring speech.
10. The manager said that the report had to be submitted before noon.
11. The officer asked who had authorised that payment.
12. The teacher said that the Earth revolves around the Sun.
13. My friend said that he/she might shift to Bengaluru the following month.
14. The judge ordered the witness to enter the courtroom.
15. He said that if he had worked harder, he would have secured better marks.

**Grammar: Active and Passive Voice**

**ANSWERS**

- 1 A new highway is being built near the city by the government.
- 2 A delicious meal has been prepared for the guests by the chef.
- 3The historic building was destroyed by fire last night.
- 4The project topic was being discussed by the students.
- 5The assignment will be finished by her before Monday.
- 6His bicycle had already been stolen from the parking lot.
- 7A helmet must be worn while riding a motorcycle.
- 8We are expected by the teacher to submit the essays on time.
- 9Let this letter be posted immediately.
- 10 By whom was this beautiful poem written?

Exercise **TRANSFORMATION OF SENTENCES**

Answer Key (DO AS DIRECTED)

- 1- When everyone saw the baby, they smiled.
- 2- By not going now, you'll miss the train.
- 3- We were unsure, but we decided to help.
- 4-Have they not completed the work?
- 5--She never fails to finish her work on time.

## **CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS – ANSWERS**

**Q1.**

|                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>SITUATION VACANT</b><br/><b>PGT (PHYSICS)</b></p> |
|---------------------------------------------------------|

Blooming Dales School, Lucknow, requires a qualified and experienced PGT (Physics). Candidates must possess a Postgraduate degree in Physics with B.Ed. and excellent communication skills. Preference will be given to experienced candidates. Salary as per school norms. Interested candidates may send their CV with recent photograph to the Principal, Blooming Dales School, Lucknow, within seven days. Contact: 98765XXXXX.

**Q2.**

**SITUATION WANTED  
MBA (MARKETING)**

Young, dynamic and result-oriented MBA (Marketing) graduate from a reputed institute seeks a suitable position in a reputed multinational company in Bengaluru. Possesses excellent communication, presentation and interpersonal skills with sound knowledge of digital marketing and market research. Ready to join immediately. Contact: Vihaan/Vanya, 98XXXXXXXXX.

**Q.3**

**ACCOMMODATION WANTED  
3BHK HOUSE ON RENT**

Wanted a well-maintained, spacious 3BHK house on rent in a good residential area of Chennai. Preferably near reputed schools, markets and public transport facilities. Secure locality and adequate parking essential. Budget negotiable. Genuine landlords/brokers may contact Samay/Samara at 98XXXXXXXXX.

**Q4.**

**TO LET  
2BHK FLAT AVAILABLE**

Well-maintained and spacious 2BHK flat available for rent at Sea Green Colony, Hyderabad. Located in a peaceful and secure residential area with nearby market, school and public transport facilities. Suitable for a small family. Reasonable rent. Immediate possession available. Interested tenants may contact Anil Grover at 98XXXXXXXXX.

**LONG WRITING TASK- SPEECH WRITING**

**ANSWER KEY**

Question 3: Importance of Reading

### Books—Our Best Friends

Respected Principal sir, teachers and my dear friends,

Good morning.

Reading is one of the most rewarding habits a person can develop. Books expand our knowledge, improve vocabulary and stimulate imagination. They also teach us valuable life lessons and help us understand different cultures and perspectives.

In today's digital world, many students spend more time on screens than with books. We should devote at least thirty minutes every day to reading newspapers, biographies, novels or inspirational books.

A reader becomes a better learner and a confident individual. Let us make reading a lifelong habit and unlock the treasure of knowledge.

Thank you.

### Value Points-

Importance of reading

Benefits

Need to reduce screen time

Daily reading habit

Inspiring conclusion

### Question 4: Health is Wealth

Health is the Greatest Wealth

Respected Principal sir, teachers and dear friends,

A very good morning to all.

Good health is the foundation of a happy and successful life. Healthy food, regular exercise, proper sleep and a positive attitude help us remain energetic and focused. Equally important is mental well-being. We should avoid stress by practising yoga, meditation and engaging in hobbies.

Teenagers often ignore healthy habits because of busy schedules and excessive screen time. We must remember that prevention is always better than cure.

Let us promise to adopt a healthy lifestyle and inspire others to do the same.

Thank you.

Value Points-

Healthy lifestyle

Balanced diet

Physical fitness

Mental health

Motivation

Question 5: Say No to Plastic

Say No to Plastic

Respected Principal sir, teachers and my dear friends,

Good morning.

Plastic pollution has become one of the greatest environmental challenges today. Single-use plastic bags, bottles and wrappers pollute rivers, oceans and soil, causing immense harm to wildlife and human health.

As responsible students, we should carry cloth bags, reusable bottles and lunch boxes. We must avoid disposable plastic items and spread awareness among our families and neighbours.

Together, we can make our surroundings cleaner and safer. Let us take a pledge to reduce plastic use and protect our planet for future generations.

Thank you.

Value Points-

Plastic pollution

Harmful effects

Eco-friendly alternatives

Student participation

Strong concluding appeal

Question 6: Time Management – The Key to Success

Time Management – The Key to Success

Respected Principal sir, teachers and my dear friends,

A very good morning to everyone.



Time is the most precious resource in our lives. Once lost, it can never be regained. Successful people are not those who have more time but those who use their time wisely.

As students, we should prepare a daily timetable, prioritise important tasks and avoid unnecessary distractions such as excessive use of mobile phones and social media. Completing work on time reduces stress and improves confidence.

Remember, every minute spent productively brings us closer to our goals. Let us develop the habit of managing our time effectively and make every moment count.

Thank you.

Value Points-

Importance of time

Planning and prioritising

Avoiding distractions

Benefits of time management

Motivating conclusion

Question 7: Road Safety Awareness

Road Safety Saves Lives

Respected Principal sir, teachers and my dear friends,

Good morning to all.

Every day, thousands of road accidents occur due to negligence and violation of traffic rules. Most of these accidents can be prevented if people act responsibly.

We must always wear helmets and seat belts, obey traffic signals, avoid using mobile phones while walking or driving and never overspeed.

Pedestrians should use zebra crossings, and cyclists should follow traffic regulations.

Road safety is not merely a legal obligation but a moral responsibility. Let us become responsible road users and encourage others to follow traffic rules for a safer tomorrow.

Thank you.

Value Points-

Importance of road safety

Causes of accidents

Safety measures

Individual responsibility

Concluding appeal

Question 8: Kindness Begins with Me

Kindness Begins with Me

Respected Principal sir, teachers and my dear friends,

A very good morning to everyone.

Kindness is one of the greatest qualities a person can possess. A kind word, a helping hand or a simple smile can brighten someone's day and create a positive environment.

Kindness should begin with each one of us. We must treat everyone with respect, help those in need, appreciate others' efforts and avoid bullying or discrimination. Such small acts strengthen relationships and spread happiness.

Let us remember that kindness costs nothing but means everything.

Together, we can build a caring and compassionate society.

Thank you.

Value Points-

Meaning of kindness

Everyday acts of kindness

Respect and empathy

Positive impact

Inspiring conclusion

Question 9: Importance of Sports and Games

Sports Build Character

Respected Principal sir, teachers and my dear friends,

Good morning.

Sports and games play an essential role in our overall development. They keep us physically fit, mentally active and emotionally balanced.

Participation in sports also teaches discipline, teamwork, leadership and perseverance.

Winning is important, but learning from both victory and defeat is even more valuable. Students should actively participate in games instead of spending long hours on electronic devices.

A healthy body supports a healthy mind. Let us make sports an integral part of our daily routine and strive for excellence both inside and outside the classroom.

Thank you.

Value Points-

Importance of sports

Physical and mental benefits

Life skills developed

Balanced lifestyle

Motivational ending

Question 10: Role of Youth in Nation Building

Youth – The Strength of the Nation

Respected Principal sir, teachers and my dear friends,

A very good morning to everyone.

The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow. Their energy, creativity and determination can shape the future of our nation. A strong nation is built by responsible, educated and hardworking citizens.

Young people should develop scientific temper, respect diversity, uphold honesty and actively participate in community service. They should also protect the environment and contribute towards national progress through innovation and dedication.

Let us use our knowledge and abilities to make India stronger, cleaner and more prosperous. Together, we can become responsible citizens and proud nation builders.

Thank you.

Value Points-

Importance of youth

Responsibilities

Patriotism and values  
Community participation  
Inspiring conclusion

## DEBATE WRITING

### ANSWERS

#### Ans.2. FOR THE MOTION

**Honourable Judges, respected teachers and my worthy opponents,**

Good morning to all. I, **Riya**, stand before you to speak **for** the motion, '*Social Media Has Become the Biggest Threat to Teenagers' Mental Health.*'

Social media has become an inseparable part of teenagers' lives. While it offers opportunities to connect and learn, its excessive use has created serious mental health concerns. Many teenagers constantly compare themselves with carefully edited images and unrealistic lifestyles shared online. This often leads to low self-esteem, anxiety and dissatisfaction.

Another major concern is cyberbullying. Hurtful comments, online harassment and negative trolling can deeply affect a young person's confidence and emotional well-being. Moreover, the pressure to gain likes, followers and approval from others creates unnecessary stress.

Excessive screen time also disturbs sleep, reduces physical activity and weakens face-to-face relationships. Many students spend hours scrolling through content instead of studying, pursuing hobbies or interacting with family members.

Some may contend that social media spreads awareness and provides educational resources. I agree that it has several benefits. However, when used without discipline, its harmful effects often outweigh its advantages.

Therefore, teenagers must learn to use social media responsibly. Protecting mental health should always be our priority.

**Thank you.**

#### Ans.3. AGAINST THE MOTION

**Honourable Judges, respected teachers and my worthy opponents,**

Good morning to everyone. I, **Kabir**, stand before you to speak **against** the motion, '*Online Learning Can Never Replace Classroom Teaching.*'

The world of education is changing rapidly. Online learning has made quality education accessible to millions of students, regardless of their location. A student can now learn from expert educators, attend international lectures and access digital libraries from home.

Online platforms also allow students to learn at their own pace. Recorded lectures, interactive quizzes and personalized learning tools help students revise difficult topics whenever required. This flexibility makes learning more effective for many learners.

Supporters of the motion believe that classrooms are essential for meaningful learning. I agree that classrooms offer valuable interaction. However, modern technology now provides live classes, discussion forums, virtual laboratories and collaborative projects that make online learning highly engaging.

The future of education lies not in choosing one method over the other but in recognizing that technology has transformed the learning process. With continuous improvements, online education is becoming increasingly interactive and effective.

Therefore, it is incorrect to say that online learning can never replace classroom teaching. It has the potential to meet the changing educational needs of the twenty-first century.

**Thank you.**

**Ans.4. FOR THE MOTION**

**Honourable Judges, respected teachers and my worthy opponents,**

Good morning to all. I, **Ananya**, stand before you to speak **for** the motion, '*Video Games Improve Skills More than They Harm Students.*'

Video games are often viewed only as a source of entertainment, but they also help students develop several valuable skills. Many games improve problem-solving, logical thinking and decision-making by encouraging players to analyse situations and choose the best strategy.

Action and simulation games enhance hand-eye coordination, concentration and quick reflexes. Puzzle games strengthen memory and analytical ability, while multiplayer games promote teamwork, communication and leadership. These skills are useful not only in academics but also in everyday life.

Many educational games make learning enjoyable by presenting concepts through interactive activities. They encourage creativity and keep students actively engaged in the learning process.

Some may contend that video games waste time and distract students from their studies. I agree that excessive gaming can have negative effects. However, the problem lies in the lack of self-control, not in video games themselves. When played in moderation and with proper guidance, they can become an effective learning tool.

Therefore, video games contribute more to skill development than harm when used responsibly and in a balanced manner.

**Thank you.**

**Ans.5. AGAINST THE MOTION**

**Honourable Judges, respected teachers and my worthy opponents,**

Good morning to everyone. I, **Vivaan**, stand before you to speak **against** the motion, '*Examinations Should Give Greater Importance to Skills than Marks.*'

Skills are undoubtedly important, but marks continue to play a vital role in education. They provide a common and transparent standard for evaluating students across schools and educational boards. Marks make the admission process fair, organized and objective.

Many academic subjects require strong conceptual understanding, careful preparation and consistent effort. Marks encourage students to study sincerely and maintain discipline throughout the academic year. They also help teachers identify learning gaps and provide timely support.

Supporters of the motion believe that skills alone should receive greater importance. However, many skills are difficult to measure accurately and may vary from one evaluator to another. This can lead to inconsistency and subjectivity in assessment.

The ideal approach is not to reduce the importance of marks but to improve the existing examination system by gradually including more skill-based questions. Marks and skills should complement each other rather than compete.

Therefore, marks should continue to remain an essential component of the assessment process.

**Thank you.**

**Ans.6. FOR THE MOTION**

**Honourable Judges, respected teachers and my worthy opponents,**

Good morning to all. I, **Mehak**, stand before you to speak **for** the motion, '*Influencers Have More Negative than Positive Impact on Teenagers.*'

In today's digital age, influencers shape the opinions, choices and lifestyles of millions of teenagers. While some create meaningful content, many promote unrealistic standards of beauty, success and popularity. Teenagers often compare themselves with carefully edited images and videos, which may lower their confidence and create unnecessary pressure.

Many influencers also encourage excessive consumerism by promoting products and trends. As a result, young people may begin to value expensive possessions over character and hard work. Moreover, some content promotes risky challenges or unhealthy habits merely to gain attention.

Some may contend that influencers spread awareness, educate people and inspire talent. I agree that many influencers make valuable contributions. However, teenagers are more likely to be influenced by sensational and entertaining content than by educational material.

Teenagers are still developing their judgement and decision-making abilities. Therefore, they need positive role models who promote values such as honesty, discipline, kindness and responsibility.

For these reasons, I firmly believe that influencers have a greater negative than positive impact on teenagers.

**Thank you.**

**Ans.7. AGAINST THE MOTION**

**Honourable Judges, respected teachers and my worthy opponents,**

Good morning to everyone. I, **Arjun**, stand before you to speak **against** the motion, '*Homework Causes More Stress than Learning.*'

Homework is an essential part of the learning process. It allows students to revise classroom lessons, practise important concepts and develop confidence through regular effort. Learning does not end when the school day is over.

Homework also encourages independent study, time management and self-discipline. These qualities are valuable not only for academic success but also for future professional life. It helps teachers assess students' understanding and identify areas where additional support is needed.

Supporters of the motion believe that homework creates stress. This may happen when assignments are excessive or poorly planned. However, well-designed homework strengthens learning without placing an unnecessary burden on students.

Homework also allows parents to participate in their children's education and understand their academic progress. Regular practice improves retention, accuracy and problem-solving ability.

Therefore, instead of reducing homework, schools should ensure that it is meaningful, age-appropriate and balanced. Properly planned homework remains an effective tool for improving learning outcomes.

**Thank you.**

**Ans.8. FOR THE MOTION**

**Honourable Judges, respected teachers and my worthy opponents,**

Good morning to all. I, **Siya**, stand before you to speak **for** the motion, '*Space Exploration Should Be Given Priority Over Solving Earth's Problems.*'

Space exploration is not merely about discovering distant planets; it is an investment in the future of humanity. Research in space has led to remarkable advancements in communication, weather forecasting, navigation, disaster management and medical technology. These innovations directly improve life on Earth.

Exploring space also expands scientific knowledge and inspires young minds to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Nations that invest in space research strengthen their technological capabilities and contribute to global progress.

Some may contend that poverty, pollution and climate change deserve greater attention. I fully agree that these challenges are serious. However, space exploration does not prevent us from addressing them. In fact, satellites help monitor climate change, predict natural disasters and manage natural resources more effectively.

History has shown that scientific research often produces unexpected benefits for society. Therefore, investing in space exploration is not a luxury but a necessity for long-term human development.

For these reasons, I firmly support the motion that space exploration should be given priority.

**Thank you.**

**Ans.9. AGAINST THE MOTION**

**Honourable Judges, respected teachers and my worthy opponents,**

Good morning to everyone. I, **Dev**, rise to speak **against** the motion, '*Surveillance Cameras Should Be Installed in All Public Places.*'

Safety is important, but installing surveillance cameras in every public place may not always be the best solution. Public spaces are meant to allow people to move freely while enjoying a reasonable level of privacy. Excessive surveillance may create a feeling of constant observation and discomfort.

Moreover, cameras alone cannot prevent every incident. Their effectiveness depends on proper monitoring, maintenance and timely action by the authorities. Without these measures, simply increasing the number of cameras may not significantly improve public safety.

Some may contend that surveillance cameras help investigate crimes and discourage unlawful activities. I agree that cameras can be useful in many situations. However, public safety also depends on responsible citizens, efficient policing, good street lighting and effective law enforcement.

A balanced approach that combines technology with strong public services is more effective than relying only on surveillance systems.

Therefore, surveillance cameras should be installed where genuinely required rather than in all public places.

**Thank you.**

**Ans.10. FOR THE MOTION**

**Honourable Judges, respected teachers and my worthy opponents,**

Good morning to all. I, **Ishita**, stand before you to speak **for** the motion, '*Competitive Examinations Should Be the Primary Criterion for Admission to Higher Education.*'

Higher education institutions receive applications from thousands of deserving students every year. Competitive examinations provide a fair, transparent and uniform method of selecting candidates. Since all students take the same examination under similar conditions, their performance can be evaluated on a common standard.

These examinations encourage students to strengthen their conceptual understanding, analytical ability and problem-solving skills. They reward hard work, dedication and consistent preparation. A standardized assessment also reduces differences that may arise due to varying school systems and marking practices.

Some may contend that examinations create stress and fail to assess every talent. I agree that no single method of assessment is perfect. However, competitive examinations remain the most practical and objective way to compare a large number of applicants. Other achievements may be considered, but they should support rather than replace a common entrance test.

A fair admission system should be transparent, merit-based and accessible to all. Competitive examinations help achieve these goals and maintain academic standards in higher education.

Therefore, I firmly support the motion.

**Thank you.**

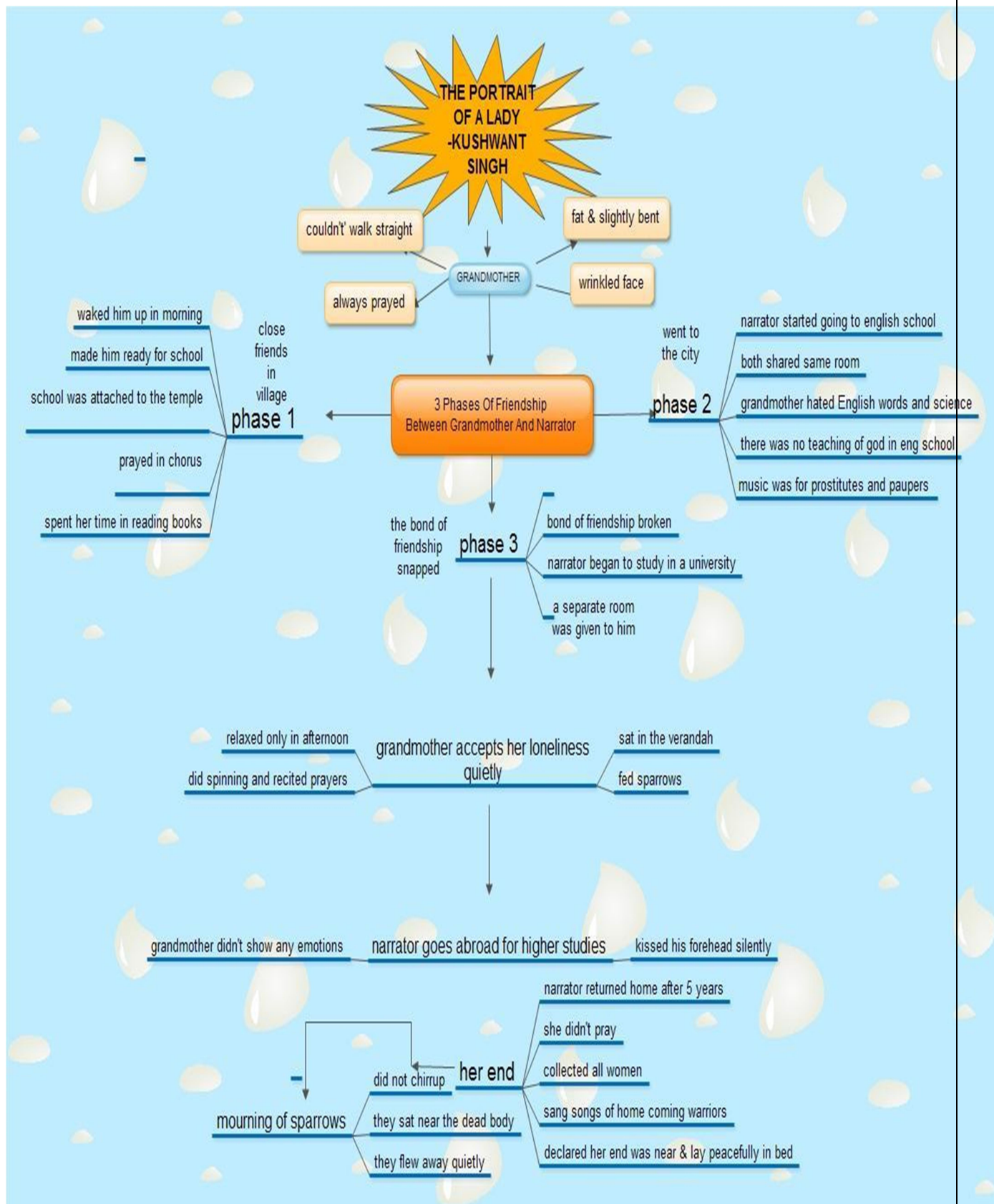


## **"THE PORTRAIT OF A LADY" by KHUSHWANT SINGH**

### **Summary**

In the Chapter "The Portrait of a Lady", Khushwant Singh provides a moving tribute to his grandmother, tracing the changing nature of their relationship over several years. The story is divided into three distinct phases: their early life in the village, their transition to the city, and the grandmother's final days. In the village, the grandmother is the narrator's constant companion, deeply involved in his education and spiritual upbringing. However, moving to the city creates a 'turning point' as the English school and modern subjects distance her from his studies. Despite the growing physical and intellectual gap, her devotion to prayer and her bond with nature, specifically the sparrows she feeds, remain steadfast. The story concludes with a poignant description of her peaceful passing, where even the birds seem to mourn the loss of a soul who lived with grace, discipline, and unwavering faith.

### **Mind Maps**



## Extract Based Questions

### Extract 1

"My grandmother and I were good friends. My parents left me with her when they went to live in the city and we were constantly together. She used to wake me up in the morning and get me ready for school. She said her morning prayers in a monotonous sing-song while she bathed and dressed me in the hope that I would learn it and get to know it by heart; I listened because I loved her voice but never bothered to learn it."

#### Questions:

1. Why did the author live with his grandmother in the village?
    - (A) His parents went to live in the city.
    - (B) He preferred the village school.
    - (C) His grandmother was very ill.
    - (D) His parents went on a long vacation.
  2. State the reason why the author listened to his grandmother's morning prayers without trying to memorise them.
  3. Which word in the extract means "unchanging, dull, or boring"?
- 

### Extract 2

"As the years rolled by we saw less of each other. For some time she continued to wake me up and get me ready for school. When I went to an English school in a motor bus, there were no dogs in the streets and she took to feeding sparrows in the courtyard of our city house. As the years rolled by, our bond changed."

#### Questions:

1. How did the author travel to his new city school?
  - (A) He walked with his grandmother.
  - (B) He rode a bicycle with village friends.
  - (C) He went in a motor bus.
  - (D) His parents dropped him by car.

2. Identify the main structural factor in the city lifestyle that initially created physical and emotional distance between them.
  3. What does the phrase "As the years rolled by" mean in the text?
- 

### **Extract 3**

"When I went up to University, I was given a room of my own. The common link of friendship was snapped. My grandmother accepted her seclusion with resignation. She rarely left her spinning-wheel to talk to anyone. From sunrise to sunset she sat by her wheel spinning and reciting prayers. Only in the afternoon she relaxed for a while to feed the sparrows."

#### **Questions:**

1. What event led to the final snapping of the common link of friendship?
    - (A) The author going to the city school.
    - (B) The author going up to University.
    - (C) The grandmother falling severely ill.
    - (D) The family moving to another country.
  2. How does the grandmother's acceptance of her isolation highlight her resilience instead of weakness?
  3. Which word in the extract means "the state of being private and away from other people"?
- 

### **Extract 4**

"When I decided to go abroad for further studies, I was sure my grandmother would be upset. I would be away for five years, and at her age one could never tell. But my grandmother was not even emotional. She came to see me off at the railway station but did not talk or show any emotion. Her lips moved in prayer, her mind was lost in prayer."

#### **Questions:**

1. Where did the grandmother come to see the author off?
    - (A) At the airport bus terminal.
    - (B) At the city harbour.
    - (C) At the railway station.
    - (D) At the university gates.
  2. Why did the grandmother choose prayer over emotional conversation during their final moments at the station?
  3. Find a word in the text that means "having or showing strong feelings".
- 

#### **Extract 5**

"In the evening a change came over her. She did not pray. She collected the women of the neighbourhood, got an old drum and started to sing. For several hours she thumped the sagging skins of the dilapidated drum and sang of the home-coming of warriors. We had to persuade her to stop to avoid overstraining. That was the first time since I had known her that she did not pray."

#### **Questions:**

1. What theme did the grandmother sing about with her old drum?
    - (A) The beauty of nature.
    - (B) The stories of village gods.
    - (C) The home-coming of warriors.
    - (D) The sorrow of old age.
  2. What does this rare celebration tell us about the hidden depth of the grandmother's love for her grandson?
  3. Which word in the passage describes an object that is in a state of ruin or disrepair?
- 

#### **Extract 6**

"She lay peacefully in bed praying and telling her beads. Even before we could suspect, her lips stopped moving and the rosary fell from her lifeless fingers. A peaceful pallor spread on her face and we knew that she was dead. We lifted her off the bed and, as is customary, laid her on the ground and covered her with a red shroud."

**Questions:**

1. What fell from the grandmother's fingers when she passed away?
    - (A) The old holy book.
    - (B) The spinning wheel thread.
    - (C) The sacred rosary.
    - (D) The family house keys.
  2. How does the manner of the grandmother's death perfectly align with the way she lived her entire life?
  3. Which word in the extract means "an unhealthy pale appearance of the face"?
- 

**Short Answer Type Questions (Critical Thinking & Inferential)      3 Mark each**

**Q1.** Why did the author find the idea of his grandmother ever being young and pretty "almost revolting"?

**Q2.** How did the grandmother create a "sacred atmosphere" while getting the author ready for school in the village?

**Q3.** What does the grandmother's disapproval of the city school curriculum reveal about her educational philosophy?

**Q4.** Why did the grandmother consider the music lessons at the city school to be "lewd association"?

**Q5.** How did the spinning wheel become a tool of silent meditation for the grandmother in her seclusion?

---

**Long Answer Type Questions (Analytical & Evaluative)      6 mark each**

**Q1.** The shift from a rural to an urban environment does not merely change a setting; it reorganises human relationships and personal routines. Evaluate this statement with reference to the "turning-point" in the relationship between the author and his grandmother after they moved to the city.

**Q2.** The grandmother's relationship with the village dogs and city sparrows transcends casual animal feeding, serving as an expression of her unspent maternal instinct and spiritual connection with nature. Analyze how these interactions mirror her emotional journey throughout the text.

**10 Questions**

**Q1.** The author says his grandmother could never have been "pretty" but she was always "beautiful." What does this distinction imply about her character?

**Q2.** How did the shift from the village to the city serve as a turning point in their relationship?

.

**Q3.** Why was the grandmother deeply distressed when she found out that music lessons were being given at the city school?

**Q4.** "She accepted her seclusion with resignation." How did the grandmother adapt to her isolation when the author went to university?

**Q5. What was unique and deeply moving about the way the sparrows mourned the grandmother's death?**

6. Why did the grandmother accept the news of the author going abroad without showing any emotional breakdown?
  7. What was historically significant about the evening the grandmother skipped her prayers to beat the drum?
  8. How does the manner of the grandmother's death reflect the ultimate victory of her spirit over her failing body?
  9. Why did the thousands of sparrows sit in complete silence around the grandmother's corpse?
  10. How does the shifting relationship with animals highlight the changing landscape from village to city life?
- 

**"A Photograph"**

**SUMMARY**

The poem "A Photograph" by Shirley Toulson is a nostalgic reflection on childhood, memories, the passage of time and loss. The poet looks at an old photograph of her mother as a twelve-year-old girl, standing between her cousins Betty and Dolly during a sea holiday. The photograph was taken by the poet's uncle. Years later, the poet's mother would laugh at the photograph and recall her happy childhood. The poet contrasts the unchanging sea, which symbolises the permanence of nature, with human life, which constantly changes. The sea holiday was her mother's past, while her mother's laughter over the photograph became the poet's past.

The poem then moves from nostalgia to grief. The poet remembers that her mother eventually died, and even after many years, the loss remains painful. The phrase "laboured ease of loss" suggests that the poet has gradually learned to live with her mother's absence, but the pain has not disappeared. At the end, the poet becomes silent because her grief is too deep for words, expressed through the powerful line "Its silence silences." Thus, the poem highlights the transience of human life, permanence of nature, power of memories, and pain of losing loved ones.



## Poetic Devices

### # Alliteration

Repetition of the same consonant sound at the beginning of nearby words.

“stood still to smile”

“terribly transient feet”

### #Transferred Epithet

An adjective is transferred from the person or thing it logically describes to another noun.

“laboured ease of loss”

### #Oxymoron

Two apparently contradictory words or ideas are placed together.

“laboured ease”

### # Personification

Giving human qualities or actions to non-human things.

“Its silence silences.”

### # Repetition

Repeating a word or phrase for emphasis or effect.

“Its silence silences.”

### #Metaphor

A direct comparison between two unlike things without using “like” or “as.”

“terribly transient feet”

### #Symbolism

Using an object or image to represent a deeper idea.

The sea

The sea symbolises permanence and the continuity of nature, contrasting with changing human life.

### # Enjambment

Continuation of a sentence or thought from one line to the next without punctuation.

“And the sea, which appears to have changed less / Washed their terribly transient feet.”

The thought flows naturally across the lines.

### # Imagery

Descriptive language that creates a vivid picture in the reader’s mind.

“three girls in the photograph” / “the sea”

### # Anaphora

Repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of successive lines or clauses.

“And the sea...” / “And of this circumstance...”

### Extract 1

All three stood still to smile through their hair

At the uncle with the camera.

A sweet face,

My mother, that was before I was born."

Questions

Q1 What has remained almost unchanged according to the poet?

A The girls' faces

B The sea

C The uncle

D The smile

Q2 The phrase 'terribly transient feet's highlights the \_\_\_\_ nature of human life

Q3 Identify the poetic device used in "smile through their hair."

ANSWER

1 The sea

2 short lived and temporary

3 Imagery

### **Extract 2**

"Sea holiday

Was her past, mine is her laughter.

Both wry

With the laboured ease of loss."

Questions

Q1. The expression ' laboured ease of loss ' is an example of

A Simile

B oxymoron

C Alliteration

D Metaphor

Q2.State whether True or false:

The poet considers her mother's laughter as something that belongs to her own past.

Q3. What does the word 'wry' suggest in the extract?

### **Extract 3**

"Now she's been dead nearly as many years

As that girl lived.

And of this circumstance

There is nothing to say at all."

Questions

Q1. The line 'it's silence silences ' mainly conveys:

A Joy and celebration

B Deep, speechless grief

C Anger towards fate

D Complete forgetfulness

Q2. Choose the option that best completes the analogy based on the extract:

Silence : Grief :: Tears : \_\_\_\_\_

A. Celebration

B. Sorrow

C. Anger

D. Forgetfulness

Q3. Why does the poet say, "There is nothing to say at all".

### SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

Q1 what has not changed over the years? Does this suggest something to you?

Q2 what is the meaning of the line 'Both wry with the laboured ease of loss.'

Q3 What does the word 'Cardboard' denote in the poem? Why has this word been used?

Q4 Explain: 'And the sea, which appears to have changed less Washed their terribly transient feet.'

Q 5 What is the central theme of the poem "A Photograph"?

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## LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

Q 1 How do the three stanzas of the poem depict three different phases? Elaborate with reference to the poem.

Q 2 What contrast does the poet draw between the transient nature of human life and the permanence of nature?

### Chapter: We Are Not Afraid to Die... if We Can All Be Together

#### Extract-Based Questions

##### Extract 1

*"The Wavewalker was a 23-metre, 30-ton wooden-hulled boat. We had spent months preparing it and had tested it in the roughest weather we could find. We had confidence in the boat's ability to withstand gales and giant waves."*

#### Questions

1. What does the phrase "*roughest weather*" suggest about the family's preparation?

- (a) They wanted an easy journey.
- (b) They deliberately prepared for extreme conditions.
- (c) They avoided storms.
- (d) They had little sailing experience.

2. The narrator's confidence in the boat mainly reflects

- (a) over confidence.
- (b) careful planning and experience.
- (c) luck.
- (d) ignorance of danger.

3. Which quality of the narrator is revealed in this extract?

- (a) Carelessness
- (b) Determination
- (c) Fearfulness
- (d) Laziness

4. Choose the word closest in meaning to "**withstand**."

- (a) Resist
- (b) Escape
- (c) Destroy
- (d) Forget

5. Assertion (A): The family prepared thoroughly before beginning the voyage.

Reason (R): They wanted to minimise the risks of a long sea journey.

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation.
- (c) A is true, but R is false.
- (d) A is false, but R is true.

6. The extract highlights the importance of

- (a) wealth.
- (b) preparation before undertaking a challenging task.
- (c) competition.
- (d) luxury.

## Extract 2

*"The first indication of disaster came at about 6 p.m. With the wind at 50 knots, we were sailing fast. Then came the first of the giant waves. It was followed by another enormous wave."*

## Questions

1. The phrase *"first indication of disaster"* refers to

- (a) the arrival of giant waves.
- (b) the loss of food.
- (c) engine failure.
- (d) lack of maps.

2. The mood created in the extract is

- (a) humorous.
- (b) suspenseful.
- (c) cheerful.
- (d) romantic.

3. Which literary device is used in **"giant waves"**?

- (a) Metaphor
- (b) Hyperbole
- (c) Alliteration
- (d) Simile

4. Choose the antonym of **"enormous."**

- (a) Huge
- (b) Massive
- (c) Tiny
- (d) Vast

5. What can be inferred about nature from the extract?

- (a) Nature is always predictable.
- (b) Nature can become extremely powerful and dangerous.
- (c) Nature always protects humans.
- (d) Nature is weak.

6. Which value is required to face such situations?

- (a) Patience and courage
- (b) Anger
- (c) Pride
- (d) Carelessness

### Extract 3

*"Sue said, 'I'm afraid I'll have to rest now. I'm getting a little tired.' She had not complained even once during the ordeal."*

### Questions

1. Sue's words mainly reveal her

- (a) selfishness.
- (b) courage and maturity.
- (c) anger.
- (d) dishonesty.



**2.** Why is Sue's statement emotionally significant?

- (a) She wanted to avoid work.
- (b) She hid her pain to encourage her parents.
- (c) She wished to return home.
- (d) She blamed others.

**3.** The word "**ordeal**" means

- (a) celebration.
- (b) difficult experience.
- (c) holiday.
- (d) success.

**4.** Which value does Sue represent?

- (a) Compassion and resilience
- (b) Jealousy
- (c) Greed
- (d) Arrogance

**5.** Assertion (A): Sue never became frightened during the storm.

Reason (R): She wanted to support her family despite her suffering.

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation.
- (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation.
- (c) A is false, but R is true.
- (d) Both A and R are false.

6. Sue's behaviour teaches us that true courage means

- (a) never feeling pain.
- (b) staying calm and supporting others in difficult times.
- (c) avoiding responsibility.
- (d) ignoring danger.

#### Extract 4

*"For the next two days, the wind continued to blow with tremendous strength. We survived because we remained determined and continued pumping out the water."*

#### Questions

1. The family's survival depended mainly on

- (a) luck.
- (b) determination and continuous effort.
- (c) outside rescue.
- (d) expensive equipment.

2. Which theme is highlighted here?

- (a) Materialism
- (b) Perseverance
- (c) Entertainment
- (d) Competition

3. Choose the synonym of "**tremendous**."

- (a) Weak
- (b) Great
- (c) Tiny
- (d) Slow

4. The narrator's attitude throughout the crisis can best be described as

- (a) hopeless.
- (b) optimistic and determined.
- (c) careless.
- (d) indifferent.

5. What message does the extract convey?

- (a) Difficulties should be avoided.
- (b) Persistent effort helps overcome challenges.
- (c) Success comes through luck.
- (d) Courage is unnecessary.

6. The phrase "**continued pumping out the water**" symbolises

- (a) giving up.
- (b) constant effort despite hardships.
- (c) wasting time.
- (d) fear.

### Extract 5

*"Somehow we had survived. We had reached one of the world's remotest islands. We were relieved that the struggle was finally over."*

### Questions

1. The word "**remotest**" suggests that the island was

- (a) crowded.
- (b) isolated.
- (c) modern.
- (d) polluted.

2. The family's feeling at the end of the voyage was one of

- (a) disappointment.
- (b) relief and gratitude.
- (c) anger.
- (d) confusion.

3. Which theme is best reflected in this extract?

- (a) Triumph over adversity
- (b) Failure
- (c) Revenge
- (d) Luxury

4. Choose the synonym of "**relieved.**"

- (a) Worried
- (b) Comforted

- (c) Angry
- (d) Frightened

5. What can the readers infer from the ending?

- (a) Courage and unity can help people overcome great difficulties.
- (b) Wealth is the key to success.
- (c) Challenges should be avoided.
- (d) Success depends only on luck

6. The title "**We Are Not Afraid to Die... if We Can All Be Together**" emphasises

- (a) the importance of family unity in the face of danger.
- (b) the importance of money.
- (c) the desire for adventure only.
- (d) the fear of travelling.

**Short Answer Type Questions:**

**Q.1** The narrator had prepared the Wavewalker carefully before the voyage. How did this preparation help the family during the storm?

**Q.2** What made the storm one of the greatest challenges of the narrator's life? Give any two reasons.

**Q.3** How did the narrator show courage and presence of mind after the giant wave struck the Wavewalker?

**Q.4** Jonathan said, "We aren't afraid of dying if we can all be together." What does this statement reveal about his character?

**Q.5** How did the narrator and his crew manage to keep the Wavewalker afloat despite severe damage?

**Q.6** How did Sue's behaviour during the crisis become a source of strength for the entire family?

**Q.7 The family's survival was not the result of luck alone. Explain with two examples from the chapter.**

**Q.8 What lessons about teamwork and cooperation can be learnt from the family's experience during the voyage?**

**Q.9 How did the narrator's feelings change from fear and despair to hope by the end of the journey?**

**Q.10 What message does the chapter convey about courage, determination, and family unity? Support your answer with examples from the text.**

**Long Answer Type Questions:**

**Q.1 The family faced a life-threatening storm in the middle of the sea. Analyse how their decisions, preparation, and presence of mind helped them survive. What lessons can modern-day readers learn from their experience?**

**Q.2 "A positive attitude can transform the most difficult situations." Discuss this statement with reference to the narrator and his family. Support your answer with suitable incidents from the chapter.**

**Q.3 Imagine you are Suzanne or Jonathan after reaching Ile Amsterdam. Write a diary entry describing your feelings, the challenges you faced during the voyage, and the lessons you learned from the experience.**

**Q.4 The chapter shows that effective leadership is not about giving orders but about inspiring confidence. Evaluate the narrator's leadership during the crisis. Do you think his actions were enough to keep the family motivated? Give reasons with evidence from the text.**

**Q.5 Suppose your school invites the narrator to deliver a talk on 'Overcoming Challenges Through Courage and Teamwork.' Based on the events of the chapter, explain the key ideas and values you think he would share with students. Support your response with examples from the text.**

## STUDY MATERIAL

CLASS: 11

SUBJECT: English

CHAPTER: Discovering Tut..The Saga Continues.....

### Extract 1:

"He was just a teenager when he died. The last heir of a powerful family that had ruled Egypt and its empire for centuries. He was laid to rest, laden with gold, and eventually forgotten. Since the discovery of his tomb in 1922, the modern world has speculated about what happened to him, with murder being the most extreme possibility."

### Questions:

1. The discovery of Tut's tomb in 1922 immediately clarified the cause of his death.  
(True/False)
2. King Tut belonged to a \_\_\_\_\_ that had ruled Egypt for centuries.( Dynasty/Rule)
3. Why does the author describe Tut as being "eventually forgotten" before 1922?
4. **Assertion (A):** The modern world has been obsessed with Tut's death.

**Reasoning (R):** His death occurred mysteriously while he was still a teenager.

*Select the correct option:*

- (a) Both A and R are true, R explains A.
- (b) A and R are true, R does not explain A.
- (c) A is true, R is false.
- (d) A is false, R is true.

5. If you were an archaeologist, how would you justify the continued "speculation" about a death that happened over 3,300 years ago?

### Extract 2:

"The ritual resins had hardened, cementing Tut to the bottom of his solid gold coffin. No amount of legitimate force could move them. Carter finally turned to science. What was to be done? The sun can beat down like a hammer this far south in Egypt, and Carter tried to use it to loosen the resins."

### Questions:

1. Carter was successful in using the sun's heat to loosen the resins. **True/False**
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ used for the burial had hardened like cement. (Resins/ powder)
3. What does the phrase "legitimate force" imply about the methods Carter was attempting to use?

4. **Assertion (A):** Carter had to resort to drastic measures to remove the mummy.

**Reasoning (R):** The body was fused to the coffin due to the hardened ritual resins.

*Select the correct option:*

- (a) Both A and R are true, R explains A.*
- (b) A and R are true, R does not explain A.*
- (c) A is true, R is false.*
- (d) A is false, R is true.*

5. Carter is often criticized by modern archaeologists. Based on this extract, what specific aspect of his work would they likely find unprofessional?

**Extract 3:**

"In 1968, more than forty years after Carter's discovery, an anatomy professor X-rayed the mummy and revealed a startling fact: beneath the resin that cakes his chest, his breastbone and front ribs are missing."

**Questions:**

1. The X-ray was performed immediately after the discovery of the tomb. **True/False**
2. The anatomy professor discovered that the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ were missing. (Breastbone, front ribs/ collarbone, knees)
3. Why is the discovery of "missing" bones considered a "startling fact" in the context of a royal burial?
4. **Assertion (A):** Technological advancements in the 1960s changed the perception of Tut's condition.

**Reasoning (R):** Earlier, Carter had documented the complete physical state of the mummy.

*Select the correct option:*

- (a) Both A and R are true, R explains A.*
- (b) A and R are true, R does not explain A.*
- (c) A is true, R is false.*
- (d) A is false, R is true.*

5. How does this extract highlight the shift from "treasure hunting" to "scientific investigation" in archaeology?



**Extract 4:**

"The night of the scan, workmen carried his body from the tomb in a box. Like pallbearers they climbed a ramp and a flight of stairs into the swirling sand outside; then rose on a hydraulic lift into the trailer that held the scanner."

**Questions:**

1. The CT scan took place inside the tomb. **True/False**
2. The workmen carried the body of the king like \_\_\_\_\_. (lift /Pallbearers)
3. The author uses the term "swirling sand" to describe the environment. How does this setting contribute to the tone of the passage?
4. **Assertion (A):** The CT scan was a high-tech procedure.

**Reasoning (R):** It required specialized equipment like a trailer and a hydraulic lift.

*Select the correct option:*

- (a) Both A and R are true, R explains A.
- (b) A and R are true, R does not explain A.
- (c) A is true, R is false.
- (d) A is false, R is true.

5. Why is it significant that a "modern" scientific procedure (the scan) had to be conducted in such physically primitive/difficult conditions?

**Extract 5:**

"The million-dollar scanner had quit because of sand in a cooler fan. 'Curse of the pharaoh,' joked a guard nervously. Eventually, the substitute fans worked well enough to finish the procedure."

**Questions:**

1. The scanner stopped working due to a technical error caused by the ancient curse. **True/False**
2. The guard joked nervously about the "\_\_\_\_\_". (Missing Bones/ Curse of the pharaoh)
3. Why does the author mention that the guard joked "nervously"? What does this tell us about the human attitude toward the past?
4. **Assertion (A):** Modern scientists are completely immune to the legends surrounding the tomb.

**Reasoning (R):** The crew continued the work even after the scanner failed.

*Select the correct option:*

- (a) Both A and R are true, R explains A.*
- (b) A and R are true, R does not explain A.*
- (c) A is true, R is false.*
- (d) A is false, R is true.*

5. How does this extract contrast scientific reality with human superstition?

**SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS:** 2 Marks each (30-40 words)

1. Why did Howard Carter face criticism for disturbing Tutankhamun's mummy? What does this reveal about the conflict between archaeology and respect for the dead?
2. How does the chapter show that modern technology has changed the way historians study the past?
3. Tutankhamun became famous despite being a relatively insignificant ruler during his lifetime. Why do you think this happened?
4. What does the discovery of Tut's tomb tell us about the importance of preserving archaeological sites?
5. Why was Tut's mummy subjected to repeated investigations? Do you think repeated scientific examination is justified? Give a reasoned response.
6. How does the chapter demonstrate that historical conclusions can change with new evidence?
7. What role did superstition and mystery play in making Tutankhamun an international sensation?
8. If Tutankhamun's tomb had not contained extraordinary treasures, would he have become equally famous? Explain.
9. What can we infer about ancient Egyptian beliefs from the objects found in Tut's tomb?

10. The chapter combines history, archaeology, science and mystery. How does this combination make the narrative engaging?

**LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS:– 5 marks each**

1. "The discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb was not merely an archaeological event; it became a worldwide cultural phenomenon." Discuss.
2. "Science can help solve historical mysteries, but it must be used ethically." Examine this statement with reference to *Discovering Tut*.
3. Imagine that you are a modern archaeologist examining Tutankhamun's remains. What principles would you follow to ensure that your investigation is scientifically useful and ethically responsible?
4. How does the chapter illustrate the idea that history is reconstructed rather than simply recorded? Discuss with examples.
5. "Tutankhamun's story remains fascinating because it combines the known with the unknown." Critically analyse this statement.

**Topic- The laburnum Top**

**Summary of the poem:**

The Laburnum Top describes a silent, leafless laburnum tree that suddenly comes alive when a goldfinch arrives to feed her chicks hidden in the nest. The tree fills with movement and cheerful sounds. After feeding them, the bird flies away, and the tree becomes silent again, highlighting the close bond between nature and life.

**Symbolism in the poem:** In the poem symbolism has been used to show the relationship between nature and life. The laburnum tree symbolizes silence and dormant life, while the bird represents energy, motherhood and hope.

**Poetic devices used in The Laburnum Top**

**Simile** – Comparison using like or as.

Line: "Sleek as a lizard..."

The goldfinch is compared to a lizard to show its quick and smooth movement.

**Metaphor** – An indirect comparison.

Line: "A machine starts up..."

The tree is compared to a machine that comes alive with the birds' activity.

**Personification** – Giving human qualities to non-human things.

Line: "The whole tree trembles and thrills."

The tree is described as if it can feel excitement.

**Alliteration** – Repetition of the same consonant sound.

Line: "The tree trembles and thrills."

Repetition of the 't' sound.

**Onomatopoeia** – Words that imitate sounds.

Line: "Chitterings"

The word imitates the chirping sound of baby birds.

**Imagery** – Language that creates vivid pictures.

Line: "The laburnum top is silent, quite still / In the afternoon yellow September sunlight."

Creates a clear visual image of the quiet autumn scene.

**Enjambment** – A sentence continues without a pause into the next line.

Lines: "Then sleek as a lizard, and alert, and abrupt, / She enters the thickness..."

The thought flows from one line to the next without punctuation.

**Extract Based Questions-**

. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow. 6X1=6 Marks

(Extract-1)

The Laburnum is silent, quiet still  
In the afternoon yellow September sunlight,  
A few leaves yellowing, all its seeds fallen.  
Till the goldfinch comes, with a twitching chirrup,  
A suddenness, a startlement, at a branch end.

(I) The laburnum top is.....

(a) silent      (b) still      (c) blossoming      (d) broken

Choose the appropriate option.

(a) Only a      (b) only b      (c) a and b      (d) c and d

(II) Name the poetic device used in 'yellow September sunlight'.

(III) What happens when the bird arrives at a branch end?

(IV) Answer in one word-

'A few leaves yellowing all its seeds fallen' describes the season of .....

(V) On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below.

1. Laburnum Top's seeds have fallen.
  2. Laburnum Top's leaves are yellowing.
- (a) 1 can be inferred from the extract but 2 cannot.
- (b) 2 can be inferred from the extract but 1 cannot.
- (c) Both 1 and 2 can be inferred from the extract
- (d) 2 is the reason for one.

(VI) Which of the following words from the extract is opposite in meaning to the word 'moving'?

- (a) Silent    (b) Top    (c) still    (d) fallen

**(Extract-2)**

Then sleek as a lizard, and alert, and abrupt,  
She enters the thickness, and a machine starts up  
Of chitterings and a tremor of wings and trillings—  
The whole tree trembles and thrills.

- (1) Who does she refer to?
- (2) Name the poetic device used in 'then sleek as lizard'.
- (3) What does 'a machine starts up' mean?
- (4) Why does the whole tree tremble and thrill?
- (5) Answer in one word- 'She enters the thickness'

Thickness describes.....

(6) On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below.

1. The bird arrives in the tree.
  2. The tree is excited.
- (a) 1 can be inferred from the extract but 2 cannot.
- (b) 2 can be inferred from the extract but 1 cannot.
- (c) Both 1 and 2 can be inferred from the extract
- (d) 2 is the reason for one.

**(Extract-3)**

It is engine of her family.  
She stokes it full, then flirts out to a branch-end  
Showing her barred face identity mask.  
Then with eerie delicate whistle-chirrup  
Whispering  
She launches away, towards the infinite  
And the laburnum subsides to empty.

- (1) Name the poetic device used in 'It is engine of her family'.  
(a) Simile (b) Metaphor (c) Personification (d) Oxymoron

(2) Who does she refer to?

(3) 'She stokes it full' what does it mean?

(4) What happens when the bird flies away in the sky?

(5) Answer in one word-

'The laburnum top subsides to empty' means the tree is ..... once again.

(6) On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below.

1. The bird shows her barred face and chirps at the branch end.
2. The bird flies away in the sky.

(a) 1 can be inferred from the extract but 2 cannot.

(b) 2 can be inferred from the extract but 1 cannot.

(c) Both 1 and 2 can be inferred from the extract

(d) 2 is the reason for one.

#### **SAQs-**

1. How does the poet describe the laburnum tree at the beginning of the poem?
2. What changes occur in the laburnum tree after arrival of the bird?
3. Why has the bird been compared to a lizard?
4. Elaborate the line, "It is the engine of her family."
5. How does the poem the laburnum top highlight the contrast between silence and activity in nature?
6. Why has the image of the engine been evoked by the poet?
7. Explain the line, "And the laburnum subsides to empty."

#### **LAQs-**

1. Interpret the changes which take place in the laburnum tree after arrival of the bird.  
How do the changes symbolically express reality of life?

2. Discuss the poetic devices and imagery used in “The laburnum Top.” How do they enhance the poem?
3. “The Laburnum Top” celebrates the beauty of nature and the bond between a mother and her young ones. Explain with reference to the poem.

### **Central Idea**

#### **The Voice of the Rain**

The poem “The Voice of the Rain” by Walt Whitman presents the eternal and cyclical nature of rain. The rain describes itself as the “Poem of Earth”, rising as water vapour, forming clouds, and returning to the earth to nourish and beautify it. Just as rain gives life to the earth, poetry gives life and meaning to human emotions. The poem highlights the inseparable relationship between nature and creativity and shows that both rain and poetry fulfil their purpose by giving without expecting anything in return.

### **Value Points**

- The Voice of the Rain
- Rain is the “Poem of Earth”—beautiful and essential.
- It follows the water cycle: evaporation → condensation → rainfall.
- Rain nourishes the earth and helps seeds, plants and crops grow.
- It cleanses and purifies the earth.

Rain brings beauty, freshness and life to nature.

- Rain is eternal and cyclic, continuously returning to its origin.
- The poet compares rain with poetry, which rises from emotions and returns to enrich human life.
- Both rain and poetry give joy and fulfil their purpose selflessly.
- The poem celebrates the harmony between nature and creativity.

## Figure of Speech

1. Personification –

“I am the Poem of Earth”

2. Metaphor –

“I am the Poem of Earth”

3. Alliteration –

“And all together”

4. Imagery –

“rise impalpable out of the land and the bottomless sea.

5. Paradox –

“I descend to lave the droughts”

## A. Extract-Based Questions (5)

Extract 1

"And who art thou? said I to the soft-falling shower,  
Which, strange to tell, gave me an answer..."

Questions

1. Who asked the question?
2. What is unusual in this extract?
3. Identify the literary device used in "gave me an answer."
4. Why does the poet call the shower "soft-falling"?
5. What does this conversation symbolize?

Extract 2

"I am the Poem of Earth, said the voice of the rain..."

Questions

1. Who is called "the Poem of Earth"?



2. Why does the rain describe itself in this way?
3. Name the literary device used.
4. What qualities of rain are highlighted?
5. What does the expression suggest about nature?

#### Extract 3

"Eternal I rise impalpable out of the land and the bottomless sea..."

#### Questions

1. What natural process is described?
2. What does "impalpable" mean?
3. Why is the sea called "bottomless"?
4. Which scientific concept is referred to?
5. What literary device is used in "bottomless sea"?

#### Extract 4

"I descend to lave the droughts, atomies, dust-layers of the globe..."

#### Questions

1. What does "lave" mean?
2. What happens after rain falls?
3. How does rain help the earth?
4. What quality of rain is highlighted?
5. Which value is reflected through rain?

#### Extract 5

"For song, issuing from its birthplace... returns with love."

#### Questions

1. What comparison is made here?
2. What does the song symbolize?

3. Why does it return with love?
4. What literary device is used?
5. What message does the comparison convey?

#### **B. Short Answer Questions (10)**

1. Why does the poet ask the rain its identity?
2. Why does the rain call itself the "Poem of Earth"?
3. Explain the meaning of "impalpable."
4. How does the poem explain the water cycle?
5. How does rain purify the earth?

#### **C. Long Answer Questions (5)**

1. Explain how The Voice of the Rain beautifully presents the water cycle through poetic imagination.
2. Discuss the symbolic significance of rain in the poem.

### **Childhood**

By Markus Natten

#### **Summary**

The poem Childhood is a reflection on the loss of innocence and the transition from childhood to adulthood. The poet wonders when exactly he lost his childhood. He considers different stages of growing up. First, he realizes that adult hypocrisy made him question the values he had been taught. He noticed that adults preached love and kindness but often did not practise them.

The poet then discovers that rational thinking and the ability to distinguish between fact and fiction mark the end of childhood. He understands that concepts such as Heaven and Hell cannot simply be accepted without questioning. Finally, he realizes that childhood has disappeared when he develops an individual identity and independent thoughts. In the end, he concludes that his childhood now exists in the innocent face of a younger child.

## Poetic Devices

### Alliteration

Repetition of the same consonant sound in nearby words.

“My mind was really mine”

### Repetition

Repeating a word or phrase for emphasis.

“When did my childhood go?” is repeated as a central question.

### Enjambment

Continuation of a sentence from one line to the next without punctuation.

Several sentences continue across successive lines.

### Antithesis/Contrast

Placing contrasting ideas together.

The contrast between what adults preach and what they practise.

### Metaphor

An implied comparison between two unlike things.

“Hell and Heaven”

### Symbolism

Using something concrete to represent an abstract idea.

The infant’s face symbolises innocence and childhood.

### Transferred Epithet

An adjective is transferred from the person it logically describes to another noun.

“Childishness” and related expressions reflect the qualities associated with childhood.

EXTRACT -1

Q1) Read the extract carefully and answer the questions that follow.

When did my childhood go?

Was it the day I ceased to be eleven,

Was it the time I realised that Hell and Heaven,

Could not be found in Geography,

And therefore could not be,

Was that the day!

1 The poet's realization about Hell and Heaven mainly reflects

A His dislike for religious ideas

B His ability to think logically and question accepted beliefs

C His love for Geography

D His fear of growing up

2 Complete the sentence using an appropriate word.

The poet associates growing up with the development of \_\_\_\_\_.

3 Read the Assertion (A) and Reason ® given below and choose the correct option.

Assertion (A): The poet questions whether childhood ended when he realised Hell and Heaven were not physical places.

Reason ®: This realization marks the beginning of logical thinking instead of blind acceptance.

A Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

B Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation.

C. A is true, but R is false.

D A is false, but R is true.

#### EXTRACT -2

When did my childhood go?

Was it the time I realised that adults were not

All they seemed to be,

They talked of love and preached of love,

But did not act so lovingly,

Was that the day!

1 Choose the correct option.

The poet feels disappointed because adults

A Dislike children

B Do not work hard

C Do not always practise what they preach

D Avoid talking about love

2 Complete the sentence using an appropriate word.

The poet notices the \_\_\_\_\_ between adults' words and actions.

3 State whether the statement is true or false.

The poet believes adults always behave according to the values they teach.

### EXTRACT 3

"Where did my childhood go?  
It went to some forgotten place,  
That's hidden in an infant's face.  
That's all I know."

1 Choose the correct option.

The phrase "hidden in an infant's face" suggests that childhood

- A Never ends
- B Belongs to young children
- C Is easy to recover
- D Exists only in dreams

2 Complete the sentence using an appropriate word.

The poet believes childhood is \_\_\_\_\_.

3 Why does the poet mention an infant's face?

### EXTRACT -4

When did my childhood go?  
Was it when I found my mind was really mine,  
To use whichever way I choose,  
Producing thoughts that were not those of other people  
But my own, and mine alone  
Was that the day!

1. Choose the correct option.

Which situation best reflects the poet's idea in the extract?

- A A student memorises everyone else's answers.
- B A student respectfully forms an opinion after evaluating different viewpoints.
- C. A child copies a friend's homework.
- D. A person follows rumours without checking facts

2 Complete the sentence using an appropriate word.

The poet celebrates his \_\_\_\_\_.

3 State whether the statement is true or false.

According to the poet, maturity involves developing one's own opinions.

#### SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in 30-40 words:

- 1 Why does the poet associate the loss of childhood with realizing that Heaven and Hell cannot be found in geography?
- 2 What does the poet mean by saying that adults "talked of love and preached of love, but did not act so lovingly"?
- 3 How does independent thinking become a sign of growing up in the poem?
- 4 What is the central message of Markus Natten's poem "Childhood"?
- 4 Why does Markus Natten use symbols instead of directly stating his ideas in the poem, 'Childhood'?

## LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in 120-150 words:

Q 1 Childhood is a journey from innocence to maturity. Explain this statement with reference to the poem.

Q2 Imagine you are the poet reflecting on your lost childhood. Write your thoughts.

3 The poet finally discovers where childhood is found. As the poet, write a diary entry expressing your feelings about this realization.

## THE ADVENTURE

Jayant Narlikar

Class XI

### QUESTION BANK

#### SECTION A: EXTRACT-BASED QUESTIONS

(Each extract carries 6 questions: 3 MCQs + 3 Very Short Answer Questions)

##### Extract 1

*The Jijamata Express sped along the Pune-Bombay route considerably faster than the Deccan Queen. There were no industrial townships outside Pune. The first stop, Lonavala, came in 40 minutes. The ghat section that followed was no different from what he knew. Then came the long tunnel before Karjat. The train stopped after a long tunnel at a small station called Sarhad. An Anglo-Indian in uniform went through the train checking permits.*

##### MCQs:

1. The train on which Professor Gaitonde was travelling was:
  - a) Deccan Queen
  - b) Jijamata Express
  - c) Frontier Mail
  - d) Rajdhani Express
2. The first stop of the train was:
  - a) Karjat
  - b) Lonavala
  - c) Sarhad
  - d) Kalyan
3. Who checked the permits at Sarhad station?
  - a) A British officer



- b) An Anglo-Indian in uniform
- c) Khan Sahib
- d) A railway guard

**Very Short Answer Questions:**

4. How was the speed of the Jijamata Express compared to the Deccan Queen?
5. What was different about the area outside Pune in this world?
6. What happened at the station called Sarhad?

**Extract 2**

*Gangadharpant could not help comparing the country he knew with what he was witnessing around him. The East India Company was flourishing. He went to the Forbes building to meet his son Vinay. To his surprise, there was no one by that name in the directory or on the staff list. He then proceeded to the Town Hall library. He asked for books on history, particularly those dealing with the period after Aurangzeb.*

**MCQs:**

1. Why did Gaitonde go to the Forbes building?
  - a) To consult historical records
  - b) To meet his son Vinay
  - c) To meet Rajendra Deshpande
  - d) To find a job
2. What surprised Gaitonde at the Forbes building?
  - a) The building was closed
  - b) There was no one named Vinay on the staff list
  - c) The building was owned by the British
  - d) He met an old friend there
3. Which period of history did Gaitonde specifically want to study?
  - a) Ancient India
  - b) The Mughal period only
  - c) The period after Aurangzeb
  - d) The freedom struggle

**Very Short Answer Questions:**

4. What did Gaitonde notice about the East India Company in this world?
5. Where did Gaitonde go after the Forbes building?
6. Why did Gaitonde want to read history books in the library?

**Extract 3**

*The fifth volume of the history book revealed a startling fact. The Marathas had won the Battle of Panipat. Abdali was defeated and pursued back to Kabul. This victory established Maratha supremacy in northern India. The East India Company was reduced to a commercial presence only. India had never been subjected to colonial rule in the manner Gaitonde knew.*

**MCQs:**

1. According to the fifth volume, who won the Battle of Panipat?
  - a) Ahmad Shah Abdali
  - b) The Marathas

- c) The British
  - d) The Mughals
2. What was the fate of Abdali after the battle in this account?
    - a) He became the ruler of Delhi
    - b) He was defeated and pursued back to Kabul
    - c) He formed an alliance with the British
    - d) He died in the battle
  3. How was the East India Company's position different in this history?
    - a) It ruled the whole of India
    - b) It was reduced to a commercial presence only
    - c) It had been completely destroyed
    - d) It controlled only southern India

**Very Short Answer Questions:**

4. What did the Maratha victory at Panipat establish?
5. How was India's political condition different in this alternate history?
6. Why was the fifth volume startling for Gaitonde?

**Extract 4**

*At Azad Maidan, Gaitonde saw a lecture in progress. The presidential chair was empty. Habit made him climb on to the stage and occupy the chair. The audience was shocked. They shouted that the chair was symbolic and no one should sit on it. When he tried to speak, he was shouted down and finally pushed off the stage. In the melee that followed, he was knocked unconscious.*

**MCQs:**

1. Why did Gaitonde occupy the presidential chair?
  - a) He was invited to speak
  - b) Habit made him do so
  - c) The organisers asked him
  - d) He wanted to protest
2. How did the audience react to Gaitonde sitting on the chair?
  - a) They applauded him
  - b) They were shocked and shouted him down
  - c) They ignored him
  - d) They requested him to speak
3. What happened to Gaitonde at the end of the incident?
  - a) He successfully delivered his lecture
  - b) He was pushed off the stage and knocked unconscious
  - c) He apologised and left quietly
  - d) The police arrested him

**Very Short Answer Questions:**

4. What was special about the presidential chair at Azad Maidan?
5. Why was the audience angry with Gaitonde?
6. What decision did Gaitonde take after this experience (in his own world)?

### Extract 5

*Rajendra Deshpande explained, "You neither travelled to the past nor the future. You were in the present experiencing a different world." He referred to the Catastrophe Theory and the lack of determinism in Quantum Theory. At critical moments, history can take different paths. The bullet that missed Vishwasrao in one world hit him in another. Gaitonde had made a transition between these two worlds.*

### MCQs:

1. According to Rajendra, where had Gaitonde been?
  - a) In the past
  - b) In the future
  - c) In the present but in a different world
  - d) In a dream only
2. Which scientific theories did Rajendra use to explain the experience?
  - a) Relativity and Gravity
  - b) Catastrophe Theory and Quantum Theory
  - c) Evolution and Natural Selection
  - d) Thermodynamics and Electromagnetism
3. What was the critical turning point that created two different worlds?
  - a) The death of Aurangzeb
  - b) Whether Vishwasrao was hit by a bullet or not
  - c) The arrival of the British
  - d) The revolt of 1857

### Very Short Answer Questions:

4. What did Rajendra mean by saying Gaitonde was "in the present experiencing a different world"?
5. How does the Catastrophe Theory help explain historical events?
6. What evidence did Gaitonde produce to support his experience?

## SECTION B: SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

*(Answer in 40–50 words each)*

1. Who was Professor Gaitonde? What was his profession and interest?
2. Describe Gaitonde's journey from Pune to Bombay on the Jijamata Express.
3. Who was Khan Sahib? What information did he give Gaitonde?
4. Why was Professor Gaitonde shocked when he arrived at Victoria Terminus?
5. What did Gaitonde discover about the Battle of Panipat in the alternate world?
6. How was the account of the Battle of Panipat different in the Bakhar from the history books Gaitonde knew?
7. Describe the incident that took place at Azad Maidan.
8. How did Rajendra Deshpande explain Gaitonde's strange experience?
9. What is the significance of the torn page from the Bakhar?
10. Why did Professor Gaitonde decide never to preside over a meeting again?

## SECTION C: LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

*(Answer in 120–150 words each)*

1. Describe the alternate India that Professor Gaitonde experienced. How was it different from the India he knew?
2. Explain the scientific theories used by Rajendra Deshpande to rationalise Professor Gaitonde's experience.
3. "A single event may change the course of the history of a nation." Discuss this statement with reference to the Battle of Panipat in the story.
4. How does the story 'The Adventure' blend history with science fiction? Illustrate with examples from the text.
5. Describe Professor Gaitonde's character. How does his experience at Azad Maidan and the transition affect him?

### QUESTIONS FOR STUDY MATERIAL

CLASS :- XI

#### PASSAGE 1

We passed nomads' dark tents pitched in splendid isolation, usually with a huge black dog, a Tibetan mastiff, standing guard. These beasts would cock their great big heads when they became aware of our approach and fix us in their sights. As we continued to draw closer, they would explode into action, speeding directly towards us, like a bullet from a gun and nearly as fast.

(1) What can you infer about the travellers' experience from the passage?

(2) The Tibetan mastiffs charged towards the travellers like a \_\_\_\_\_ from a gun.

(3) Assertion (A): The Tibetan mastiffs became aggressive and charged towards the travellers as they approached the nomads' tents.

Reason (R): The mastiffs were trained to guard the nomads' camps and perceived the approaching travellers as a threat.

Choose the correct option:

- a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c) A is true, but R is false.
- d) A is false, but R is true.

#### PASSAGE 2

We passed nomads' dark tents pitched in splendid isolation, usually with a huge black dog, a Tibetan mastiff, standing guard. These beasts would cock their great big heads when they became aware of our approach and fix us in their sights. As we continued to draw closer, they would explode into action, speeding directly towards us, like a bullet from a gun and nearly as fast.

Q.1. Assertion (A): The Tibetan mastiffs charged towards the travellers when they came closer to the nomads' tents.

Reason (R): The mastiffs were guarding the nomads' tents and considered the approaching travellers a possible threat.

Choose the correct option:

- a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c) A is true, but R is false.
- d) Both A and R are false.

Q.2. Find a word meaning “very big” from the passage.

Q.3. Which expression creates a sense of suddenness?

#### PASSAGE 3

A swathe of the white stuff lay across the track in front of us, stretching for maybe fifteen metres before it petered out and the dirt trail reappeared. The snow continued on either side of us, smoothing the abrupt bank on the upslope side. The bank was too steep for our vehicle to scale, so there was no way round the snow patch. I joined Daniel as Tsetan stepped on to the encrusted snow and began to slither and slide forward, stamping his foot from time to time to ascertain how sturdy it was. I looked at my wristwatch. We were at 5,210 metres above sea level.

Q.1. Why did Tsetan stamp his foot on the snow?

- a) To clear the snow from the track
- b) To check how sturdy the snow was
- c) To measure the depth of the snow
- d) To make the vehicle move faster

Q.2. Snow : Slither :: Rough terrain : \_\_\_\_\_

- a) Drive
- b) Struggle
- c) Sleep
- d) Rest

Q.3. Find a word from the passage that means “to move or slide awkwardly and uncontrollably.”

#### PASSAGE 4

Tsetan took me to the Darchen medical college the following morning. The medical college at Darchen was new and looked like a monastery from the outside with a very solid door that led into a large courtyard. We found the consulting room which was dark and cold and occupied by a Tibetan doctor who wore none of the paraphernalia that I’d been expecting. No white coat, he looked like any other Tibetan with a thick pullover and a woolly hat. When I explained my sleepless symptoms and my sudden aversion to lying down, he shot me a few questions while feeling the veins in my wrist.

Q.1. The medical college was located at \_\_\_\_\_.

Answer: Darchen

Q.2. Why was the narrator surprised by the appearance of the Tibetan doctor?

- a) He was wearing a white coat.
- b) He was very young.
- c) He wore no white coat or the usual medical paraphernalia.
- d) He refused to examine the narrator.

Answer: c) He wore no white coat or the usual medical paraphernalia.

Q.3. What does the narrator’s “sudden aversion to lying down” indicate?

#### PASSAGE 5

Darchen didn't look so horrible after a good night's sleep. It was still dusty, partially derelict and punctuated by heaps of rubble and refuse, but the sun shone brilliantly in a clear blue sky and the outlook across the plain to the south gave me a vision of the Himalayas, commanded by a huge, snow-capped mountain, Gurla Mandhata, with just a wisp of cloud suspended over its summit.

Q.1. Why did Darchen appear better to the narrator?

Q.2. Darchen appeared less horrible to the narrator after he had a good night's sleep. Is the given Statement True or False?

Q.3. The huge, snow-capped mountain seen from Darchen was called \_\_\_\_\_

#### SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Why did the author undertake the journey to Mount Kailash?
2. Who was Tsetan, and what role did he play in the author's journey?
3. Why were the Tibetan mastiffs a source of fear for the travellers?
4. What difficulties did the travellers face while crossing the snowy road?
5. Why did the author visit the medical college at Darchen?
6. How did the Tibetan doctor treat the author?
7. How did the author's perception of Darchen change after he got a good night's sleep?
8. What is significant about the sight of Gurla Mandhata?
9. What does the author's experience with the Tibetan landscape reveal about the journey?
10. How does *Silk Road* present the relationship between humans and the harsh environment of Tibet?

#### LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Imagine you are the narrator of *Silk Road* after reaching Darchen and getting a good night's sleep. Write a diary entry in 120–150 words describing your physical discomfort, your visit to the medical college, and your feelings on seeing the magnificent Gurla Mandhata and the Himalayas.

2. The journey in *Silk Road* is full of physical challenges, unfamiliar surroundings and unexpected difficulties. What values does the narrator demonstrate while facing these challenges? How can these values help us deal with difficulties in our own lives? Answer in 120–150 words.

3. The narrator in *Silk Road* faces physical hardships and unfamiliar surroundings, while the author in *The Portrait of a Lady* experiences changes in his relationship with his grandmother as he grows up. How do both texts show that resilience and adaptability help individuals deal with change and challenges? Discuss with relevant references from both chapters. (120–150 words)

4. Imagine you are travelling through the Tibetan plateau at an altitude of 5,210 metres. Suddenly, you find a large patch of snow blocking the road. The slope beside the road is too steep, and there is no alternative route. Your driver carefully tests the snow before moving ahead. If you were in this situation, what would you do to ensure your safety and continue the journey? What qualities demonstrated by Tsetan and the narrator would you adopt?

5. "The journey in *Silk Road* is not merely a physical journey but also an experience of discovery and adaptation." Discuss.

## Father to Son

– Elizabeth Jennings

### Summary

“**Father to Son**” explores the emotional distance between a father and his son. Although they live in the same house, the father feels that he hardly knows his own son. He remembers the boy’s childhood and wonders when they became strangers to each other.

The father tries to understand his son’s thoughts, interests, and personality, but he finds it difficult because the son has grown into an individual with his own ideas and choices. This generation gap creates tension and silence between them. The father feels helpless and regrets that their relationship has become distant.

Despite the differences, the father deeply loves his son and wants to rebuild their relationship. He wishes to forgive and accept him rather than remain angry or distant. The poem ends with the father expressing a desire for reconciliation, showing that **love and understanding can overcome differences between generations**.

### Central Idea

The poem highlights the **generation gap, lack of communication, emotional alienation, and the universal desire of parents and children to understand and accept one another**.

### Mind Map

| FATHER TO SON     |                       |                     |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Father's Feelings | Generation Gap        | Son's Silence       |
| Love & concern    | Lack of communication | Emotional distance  |
| Regret            | Different thinking    | No response         |
| Helplessness      | Misunderstanding      | Relationship breaks |
| Hope for reunion  | Loss of bonding       | Unspoken emotions   |

## Central Theme

Communication is the key to strong relationships.

### Poetic Devices

#### 1. Metaphor

*"The seed I spent..."*

The son is compared to a seed.

#### 2. Symbolism

House → Family

Seed → Birth and upbringing

Silence → Emotional distance

#### 3. Enjambment

The sentence continues to the next line without punctuation.

#### 4. Free Verse

The poem has no fixed rhyme scheme.

#### 5. Imagery

The poet creates vivid images of emotional separation.

#### 6. Alliteration

*"Silence surrounds."*

#### 7. Paradox

*"We speak like strangers"*

The paradox highlights the ironic communication gap despite their close relationship.

### Father to Son – Extract-Based Questions

#### Extract 1

*I do not understand this child*

*Though we have lived together now*



*In the same house for years. I know*

*Nothing of him...*

### Questions

1. Father tells him that although they have lived in the same house for years, he

- A. envy him
- B. adore him
- C. doesn't understand him
- D. finds him cunning

2. Which figure of speech is given in the last two lines?

3. What does the phrase "same house" symbolize?

### Extract 2

*The seed I spent or sown it where*

*The land is his and none of mine?*

*We speak like strangers, there's no sign*

*Of understanding in the air.*

### Questions

1. Why does the father use 'I' in a line 'The seed I spent or sown it where'?

- A. to acknowledge his role in the communication gap
- B. to acknowledge himself
- C. to let his son know his importance
- D. to make him understand about him

2. Explain the metaphor used in the first line.

3. Which human relationship issue is being highlighted here?

### Extract 3

*This child is built to my design*

*Yet what he loves I cannot share.*

*Silence surrounds us.*

## Questions

1. What does "built to my design" imply?
2. **What is the meaning of ‘This child is built to my design Yet what he loves I cannot share’?”**
  - A. his son looks like him and they share everything with each other
  - B. His son looks like him yet they don’t have anything to share
  - C. his son doesn’t look like him
  - D. neither does his son looks like him nor he understand him
3. Which poetic device is used in "Silence surrounds us" and what effect does it create?

## Extract 4

*And though we have not learned to speak*

*In sadness, we must each put out*

*An empty hand, longingly.*

## Questions

### **1. What happens when they both put out an empty hand for the others to seek?**

- A. efforts are always in vain
- B. they got successful in the end
- C. father wasn’t interested
- D. they never had a chance to talk

1. Why have the father and son "not learned to speak"?
2. What does the phrase "empty hand" symbolize?

## Extract 5

*Father and son, we both must live*

*On the same globe and the same land,*

*He speaks: I cannot understand*

*Myself, why anger grows from grief.*

## Questions

**1. What is the poem 'Father to Son' about?**

- A. Unsettling relationship between father and son
- B. father's old age
- C. son comparing him to his father
- D. father talking to son about his childhood

2. What universal message is conveyed through these lines?

3. Why is the ending of the poem considered hopeful despite unresolved conflict?

**Short Answer Questions (5)**

1. Why do you think the father compares his son to "a seed I spent or sown"? What does this reveal about his feelings?

2. If you were the son, how would you respond to the father's wish to rebuild their relationship? Explain briefly.

3. What does the poem suggest about the role of communication in family relationships?

4. Do you think both the father and the son share responsibility for their broken relationship? Give one reason.

5. What lesson can modern families learn from this poem?

**LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS (5)**

1. The father expresses regret rather than anger throughout the poem. How does this make the poem more powerful and emotionally appealing?

2. "Father to Son" is not only about one family but also reflects the problems of many modern families. Discuss.

**Snapshots(Supplementary Reader)**

**Chapter 1: The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse**

**By William Saroyan**

**EXTRACTS**

**EXTRACT 1**

“One day back there in the good old days when I was nine and the world was full of every kind of magnificence, and life was still a delightful and mysterious dream, my cousin Mourad, who was considered crazy by everybody who knew him except me, came to my house at four in the morning and woke me up by tapping on the window of my room.”

(i) : Why was Mourad considered crazy by everyone who knew him?

- A. He was very poor.
- B. He behaved in an unusual and eccentric manner.
- C. He disliked his family.
- D. He was unable to communicate.

(ii) How did Mourad wake the narrator?

(iii) Assertion (A): The narrator was surprised when he saw Mourad with a horse.

Reason (R): The narrator knew that his family could not afford to buy a horse.

- A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C. A is true, but R is false.
- D. A is false, but R is true.

(iv) The narrator was \_\_\_\_\_ years old when the incident took place.

## **EXTRACT 2**

“We were poor. We had no money. Our whole tribe was poverty-stricken. Every branch of the Garoghlanian family was living in the most amazing and comical poverty in the world. Nobody could understand where we ever got the money to feed us, even. But that was all. We were poor and proud. We would never steal.”

(i) What was the most important characteristic of the Garoghlanian family?

- A. Honesty
- B. Wealth
- C. Intelligence
- D. Power

(ii) What was the economic condition of the Garoghlanian family?

(iii) Assertion (A): The Garoghlanian family was proud despite being extremely poor.

Reason (R): The family was famous for its wealth and prosperity.

- A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C. A is true, but R is false.
- D. A is false, but R is true.

(iv) Fill in the Blank: The Garoghlanian family was poor but \_\_\_\_\_.

### EXTRACT 3

“I got up and looked out. It was pretty dark, but I could see Mourad sitting on a beautiful white horse. I stuck my head out of the window and rubbed my eyes. Yes, he said in Armenian. It’s a horse. Where did you steal it? I asked.”

(i) What did the narrator see when he looked out of the window?

- A. Mourad riding a black horse
- B. Mourad sitting on a beautiful white horse
- C. Aram riding a horse
- D. John Byro standing outside

(ii) In which language did Mourad reply to the narrator?

(iii) Assertion (A): The narrator asked Mourad where he had stolen the horse.

Reason (R): The narrator believed that Mourad had stolen the horse.

- A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C. A is true, but R is false.
- D. A is false, but R is true.

(iv) Fill in the Blank: Mourad was sitting on a beautiful \_\_\_\_\_ horse.

### EXTRACT 4

“The horse stood on its hind legs, snorted, and began to run. Mourad made a word of kind of sound that is made by the tongue and the teeth and the lips of a man when he wants a horse to go and the horse went.”

i What did Mourad do to make the horse go?

- A. He made a sound with his tongue, teeth and lips.
- B He shouted loudly
- C. He hit the horse.
- D. He pulled its reins.

(ii) What does Mourad's interaction with the horse reveal about him?

(iii Assertion (A): Mourad had a special bond with the horse.

Reason (R): Mourad made a sound with his tongue, teeth and lips to make the horse go.

- A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.

- C. A is true, but R is false.
- D. A is false, but R is true.

(iv) Fill in the Blank: Mourad made a word-like sound with his \_\_\_\_\_, teeth and lips.

### **EXTRACT 5**

“John Byro said, A suspicious man would believe his eyes instead of his heart. My heart says that you are the son of Aram and that your people have been the most honest people on earth. A suspicious man would believe his eyes. My heart does not.”

According to John Byro, what would a suspicious man believe?

- A. His eyes were more reliable than his heart.
- B. His heart was more reliable than his eyes.
- C. The Garoghlanian family had stolen the horse.
- D. Aram was responsible for the horse.

(ii) What did John Byro's heart tell him about the Garoghlanian family?

(iii) Assertion (A): John Byro suspected the Garoghlanian boys of stealing his horse.

Reason (R): He knew that the Garoghlanian family had always been famous for their honesty.

- A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C. A is true, but R is false.
- D. A is false, but R is true.

(iv) Fill in the Blank: John Byro believed that the Garoghlanian family had always been the most \_\_\_\_\_ people on earth.

## SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

(Answer the following questions in 30-40 words each)

1. Who was Mourad and what was unique about him?
2. Why did the narrator feel that stealing the horse was not really stealing?
3. Describe the first ride of the narrator on the white horse.
4. How did Uncle Khosrove react when he was told about the missing horse?
5. What did John Byro notice about the horse when he met Aram and Mourad?
6. Why did Mourad hide the horse for a longer period than planned?
7. What was the reputation of the Garoghlanian family?
8. How did Mourad finally return the horse?
9. What does the story tell us about the theme of honesty?
10. Why did the boys return the horse after a month?

## LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

(Answer the following questions in 120-150 words each)

1. Describe the character of Mourad. How was he different from other members of his family?
2. The story 'The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse' is a story of honesty and integrity. Discuss.
3. How did Aram and Mourad justify their act of taking the horse? What does this reveal about their values?
4. Describe the meeting between John Byro and the two boys. What impact did it have on them?
5. What role does Uncle Khosrove play in the story? How does his character contribute to the humour in the narrative?

## ANSWERS KEY

Answers to Extracts

### EXTRACT 1

- (i) B – He behaved in an unusual and eccentric manner.

- (ii) Mourad woke the narrator by tapping on the window of his room at four in the morning.
- (iii) B – Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- (iv) nine

## **EXTRACT 2**

- (i) A – Honesty.
- (ii) The Garoghlanian family was extremely poor and poverty-stricken.
- (iii) C – A is true, but R is false.
- (iv) proud

## **EXTRACT 3**

- (i) B – Mourad sitting on a beautiful white horse.
- (ii) Mourad replied in Armenian.
- (iii) A – Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (iv) white

## **EXTRACT 4**

- (i) A – He made a sound with his tongue, teeth and lips.
- (ii) It reveals that Mourad had a special bond with the horse and possessed a natural understanding of animals.
- (iii) B – Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- (iv) tongue

## **EXTRACT 5**

- (i) B – His heart was more reliable than his eyes.
- (ii) His heart told him that the Garoghlanian family were honest people and could not have stolen his horse.
- (iii) D – A is false, but R is true.
- (iv) honest

Answers to Short Answer Questions



1. Mourad was the narrator Aram's cousin. He was considered crazy by everybody who knew him except Aram. He had a natural love for horses and a unique, adventurous spirit. He was full of life and energy.
2. The narrator felt that taking the horse was not really stealing because they were not going to sell it. They only wanted to ride it for fun. Moreover, they belonged to a tribe that was known for its honesty, so they believed their intention was pure.
3. When Aram first rode the white horse, it did not behave well. It leaped over vines and raced across the fields. Aram could not control it and was thrown off. The horse ran away and Mourad had to go looking for it.
4. When Uncle Khosrove was told about the missing horse, he became furious and shouted, "It is no harm; pay no attention to it." He dismissed the matter completely in his usual temperamental way.
5. John Byro examined the horse carefully and said that it was the twin of his own missing horse. He noticed that the teeth, the eyes and every detail matched his horse, yet he chose to trust the honesty of the boys' family.
6. Mourad hid the horse longer because he wanted to teach it to be a better horse and also because both boys enjoyed riding it. They could not resist the temptation of the beautiful white horse.
7. The Garoghlanian family was known for its honesty and integrity for eleven centuries. Even though they were extremely poor, they never stole. Their reputation for honesty was more important than any material possession.
8. After about a month, Mourad returned the horse to John Byro's vineyard early one morning. The next day John Byro came to the boys' house to thank them, saying the horse was better-tempered than ever.
9. The story emphasises that true honesty comes from within. Even when no one is watching, people of integrity return what does not belong to them. The boys' decision to return the horse upholds their family's honour.

10. The boys returned the horse after a month because their conscience troubled them. John Byro's words about the honesty of their family made them realise that keeping the horse was wrong. They valued their family's reputation above personal pleasure.

#### Answers to Long Answer Questions

- VI. Mourad is one of the most interesting characters in the story. He was Aram's cousin and was considered crazy by most people, but Aram understood him. Mourad had a deep love for horses and possessed a natural gift for handling them. He was adventurous, full of energy and lived in a world of his own imagination. Unlike other members of the Garoghlanian family who strictly followed the code of honesty, Mourad took the horse for a joyride. However, he never intended to sell it or keep it permanently. His crazy behaviour was actually a reflection of his free spirit and zest for life. He was different because he dared to dream and act on his impulses while still ultimately respecting the family's values by returning the horse.
- VII. The story beautifully illustrates the values of honesty and integrity. The Garoghlanian family had a reputation for honesty that had lasted for eleven centuries. Even though the boys took the horse without permission, they never thought of selling it or permanently keeping it. When John Byro met them and spoke about the honesty of their tribe, the boys were deeply moved. His trust in their family's reputation made them feel guilty. Eventually, they returned the horse, and it was found to be better-tempered than before. The story teaches that true honesty is tested when one has the opportunity to do wrong without being caught. The boys passed this test and upheld the honour of their family.
- VIII. Aram and Mourad justified taking the horse by saying that it was not stealing in the real sense. They argued that they were not going to sell the horse or keep it forever. They only wanted to enjoy riding it for some time. According to them, stealing would mean taking something with the intention of permanently depriving the owner of it. Since their intention was pure and temporary, they felt it was not theft. This reveals that the boys had a strong sense of moral values. They were aware of the difference between right and wrong. Their family's tradition of honesty was deeply rooted in them. Even while doing something wrong, they tried to justify it in a way that did not

completely violate their principles. Eventually, their conscience made them return the horse.

- IX. One day, while the boys were taking the horse back to its hiding place, they met John Byro, the owner of the horse. He was walking with his surrey. He recognised the horse as the twin of his missing horse. He examined its teeth and other features carefully. However, instead of accusing the boys, he said that a suspicious man would believe his eyes, but his heart told him that they belonged to an honest family. This meeting had a profound impact on the boys. John Byro's trust and faith in their family's honesty made them realise the gravity of their action. They felt ashamed and decided to return the horse the very next morning. The meeting acted as a turning point in the story.
- X. Uncle Khosrove is a comical and memorable character in the story. He was a huge man with a powerful head of black hair and the largest moustache in the San Joaquin Valley. He had a terrible temper and a unique way of dismissing every problem by saying, "It is no harm; pay no attention to it." Whether it was a house on fire or a missing horse, his reaction was the same. When John Byro complained about his missing horse, Uncle Khosrove roared at him in the same manner. His character adds humour to the story. His exaggerated reactions and short temper create comic situations. At the same time, his dismissive attitude towards problems reflects a philosophical approach to life's difficulties. He contributes both humour and depth to the narrative.

## **Chapter 2: The Address**

By Marga Minco

### **EXTRACTS**

#### **Extract 1**

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

“Do you still know me?” I asked. The woman looked at me searchingly. She had kept her hand on the door as if she wanted to prevent me entering. “No, I don’t know you,” she said. “I am Mrs S’s daughter,” I said. “I came here specially on the train. You must know her.”

- (a) Who is the speaker in this extract?
- (b) Whom did the speaker come to meet?
- © How did the woman react when she saw the speaker?
- (d) Why had the speaker come there?

#### Extract 2

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

“I remembered our mother telling me about her. She was an old acquaintance of hers. She had asked her to keep her things safe. Mother had given her address, Number 46, Marconi Street.”

- (a) Who is ‘she’ referred to in the extract?
- (b) What had the mother asked her to do?
- © What was the address given by the mother?
- (d) Why did the mother entrust her things to this woman?

#### Extract 3

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

“I was in a room I knew and did not know. I found myself in the midst of things I wanted to see again but which depressed me at the same time. I knew I must not show my feelings. I had to appear normal.”

- (a) Where was the narrator at this moment?
- (b) Why did the things depress the narrator?
- © What did the narrator decide about showing her feelings?
- (d) What conflict is the narrator experiencing here?

#### Extract 4

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

“She was about to open a drawer. ‘I was forgetting,’ she said. ‘In this drawer that you cannot see from here I have some more things belonging to your mother. Some old cutlery and a few other things.’”

- (a) Who is speaking in this extract?
- (b) What was she about to do?
- © What other things of the mother did she have?
- (d) What does this reveal about Mrs Dorling?

#### Extract 5

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

“I resolved to forget the address. Of all the things I had to forget, that would be the easiest. I had no further interest in the things of the past. I decided to leave them all behind.”

- (a) What did the narrator resolve to do?
- (b) Why did she find it easy to forget the address?
- © What decision did the narrator take about the past?
- (d) What is the significance of this resolution?

#### SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

(Answer the following questions in 30-40 words each)

1. Who was Mrs Dorling and how was she related to the narrator’s mother?
2. Why did the narrator go to Mrs Dorling’s house?
3. How did Mrs Dorling behave when the narrator visited her the first time?
4. What did the narrator notice about the things in Mrs Dorling’s house?
5. Why did the narrator’s mother entrust her belongings to Mrs Dorling?

6. How did the narrator feel when she saw her mother's things in Mrs Dorling's house?
7. What was the significance of the green woollen cardigan?
8. Why did the narrator decide not to take her mother's things back?
9. What does the story tell us about the impact of war on human lives?
10. Why did the narrator resolve to forget the address?

#### LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

(Answer the following questions in 120-150 words each)

1. Describe the narrator's first visit to Mrs Dorling's house. How was she treated?
2. The story 'The Address' is about the human tendency to hold on to material possessions. Discuss.
3. How does the story highlight the theme of loss and the futility of material possessions?
4. Compare the characters of the narrator and Mrs Dorling. What do their attitudes reveal?
5. Why did the narrator ultimately decide to forget the address and leave the things behind? What does this decision signify?

**KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN, REGION AGRA**

**Class XI — English Core**

**Topic: Mother's Day (Question Bank)**

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#### **SECTION A: EXTRACT-BASED QUESTIONS.**

##### **Extract 1**

**Read the extract and answer the following questions.**

*Mrs Pearson: [smiling apologetically] That's easier said than done.*

*Besides I'm so fond of them even if they are so thoughtless*

*and selfish. They don't mean to be...*

*Mrs Fitzgerald: [cutting in] Maybe not. But it'd be better for them if th*

*learnt to treat you properly...*

**Q1. Fill in the blank**

According to Mrs Pearson, her family members are so \_\_\_\_\_ and selfish, even though she is deeply fond of them.

Q2. How does Mrs Pearson's defense of her family's behaviour highlight her key personality flaw at the beginning of the play?

Q3. Identify the fundamental flaw in Mrs. Pearson's character prevents her from taking a stand?

Q4. Contrast Mrs Fitzgerald's attitude toward Mrs Pearson's family with Mrs Pearson's own attitude. What does this difference reveal about their respective characters?

**Extract II**

**Doris:** *[before she has taken anything in] Mum —you'll have to iron my yellow silk. I must wear it tonight. [She now sees what is happening, and is astounded.] What are you doing? [She moves down left centre.][Mrs Pearson now uses her ordinary voice, but her manner is not fluttering and apologetic but cool and incisive.]*

**Mrs Pearson:** *[not even looking up] What d'you think I'm doing whitewashing the ceiling.*

**Doris:** *[still astounded] But you're smoking!*

**Mrs Pearson:** *That's right, dear. No law against it, is there*

**Read the above extract and answer the following questions.**

Q1. Why does Doris demand that her mother iron her yellow silk dress?

Q2. Instead of her usual fluttering and apologetic manner, Mrs Pearson speaks to Doris in a \_\_\_\_\_ and incisive tone.

Q3. How does Mrs. Pearson critique Doris's social life in this scene?

Q4. **Assertion & Reason**

- **Assertion (A):** Mrs Pearson gives a sarcastic response when Doris asks what she is doing.
- **Reason (R):** Mrs Pearson wants to assert her independence and change the dynamics of her relationship with her family.
- **Options:**
  1. Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
  2. Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is NOT the correct explanation of (A).
  3. (A) is true, but (R) is false.
  4. (A) is false, but (R) is true.

### Extract III

**Mrs Pearson:** *Yes — well now I've decided I don't like mending*

**Cyril:** *That's a nice way to talk — what would happen if we all talked like that?*

**Mrs Pearson:** *You all do talk like that. If there's something at home you don't want to do, you don't do it. If it's something at your work, you get the Union to bar it. Now all that's happened is that I've joined the movement.*

**Cyril:** *[staggered] I don't get this, Mum. What's going on?* **Mrs Pearson:** *[laconic and sinister]*

*Changes*

Q1. What does Cyril expect to find ready when he arrives home from work?

Q2. According to Mrs. Pearson, if there is something at work that Cyril or others don't want to do, they get the \_\_\_\_\_ to bar it.

Q3. What point is Mrs. Pearson making about her family's behavior when she says, "You all do talk like that"?

Q4 (Assertion & Reason)



**Assertion (A):** Cyril is staggered and confused by Mrs. Pearson's refusal to do house chores like mending.

**Reason (R):** Mrs. Pearson has traditionally accepted all domestic duties without complaint, making her sudden rebellion unexpected.

*Which of the following is correct?*

- a) Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- b) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is NOT the correct explanation of (A).
- c) (A) is true, but (R) is false.
- d) (A) is false, but (R) is true.

#### **Extract IV**

**George:** *I don't like surprises—I'm all for a steady going on—you ought to know that by this time. By the way, I forgot to tell you this morning I wouldn't want any tea. Special snooker match night at the club tonight—an' a bit of supper going. So no tea.*

**Mrs Pearson:** *That's all right. There isn't any.*

**George:** *[astonished]* *You mean you didn't get any ready.*

**Mrs Pearson:** *Yes. And a good thing, too, as it's turned out.*

**George:** *[aggrieved]* *That's all very well, but suppose I'd wanted some?*

**Read the above extract and answer the following questions.**

Q1.What can be inferred about George's usual routine and expectations in the household from his initial remark, "I'm all for a steady going on—you ought to know that by this time"?

Q2.How does the playwright use irony in George's reaction to highlight the selfish and hypocritical nature of his character?

Q3.Why does George say he will not be needing tea at home this evening?

#### Q4.Assertion and Reason

**Assertion (A):** George feels aggrieved and offended despite not actually wanting any tea.

**Reason (R):** George expects his tea to be kept ready regardless of whether he consumes it, viewing domestic service as his entitlement.

**Choose the correct option:**

- a) Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- b) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is NOT the correct explanation of (A).
- c) (A) is true, but (R) is false.
- d) (A) is false, but (R) is true.

#### Extract V

**Cyril:** *Now you shouldn't have told him that, Mum. That's not fair. You've hurt his feelings. Mine, too.*

**Mrs Pearson:** *Sometimes it does people good to have their feelings hurt. The truth oughtn't to hurt anybody for long. If your father didn't go to the club so often, perhaps they'd stop laughing at him.*

**Cyril:** *[gloomily] I doubt it.*

**Mrs Pearson:** *[severely] Possibly you do, but what I doubt is whether your opinion's worth having. What do you know? Nothing. You spend too much time and good money at greyhound races and dirt tracks and ice shows...*

**Read the question extract and answer the following questions.**

Q1. According to Mrs. Pearson, Cyril spends too much time and good money at greyhound races, dirt tracks, and \_\_\_\_\_.

Q2. In the line "Mrs Pearson: [severely] Possibly you do...", which word best matches the meaning of severely as used in this context?

- a) Mildly
- b) Sternly
- c) Gently
- d) Carelessly

Q3. What can be inferred about Cyril's true perception of his father's reputation at the club based on his brief response, "[gloomily] I doubt it"?

**Q4. Assertion and Reason**

**Assertion (A):** Mrs. Pearson dismisses Cyril's judgment by claiming his opinion is not worth having.

**Reason (R):** Mrs. Pearson believes Cyril wastes his time and money on frivolous entertainment instead of gaining meaningful maturity or knowledge.. *Choose the correct option:*

- a) Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- b) Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is NOT the correct explanation of (A).
- c) (A) is true, but (R) is false.
- d) (A) is false, but (R) is true.

**SECTION B: SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS (40–50 Words) 3 marks**

Q1. Interpret the significance of the fortune-telling session at the beginning of the play.

Q2. Examine why George Pearson is upset by his wife's sudden change in behavior and direct honesty.

Q3. Infer why Mrs. Fitzgerald uses strong-arm tactics and direct conflict rather than gentle advice to fix the family.

Q4. Describe how Doris Pearson treats her mother before the personality exchange occurs.

Q5. Apply the concept of household gender roles to explain Cyril's expectations of his mother.

Q6. Predict how the family dynamic will change long-term after the two women switch back.

Q7. Evaluate whether Mrs. Fitzgerald's intervention crosses ethical lines, despite achieving a positive outcome.

Q8. Explain why Mrs. Pearson's family takes her efforts and presence for granted.

Q9. Infer why Mrs. Fitzgerald uses strong-arm tactics and direct conflict rather than gentle advice to fix the family.

Q10. Analyze the underlying cause of Mrs. Pearson's initial hesitation to stand up for herself.

### **SECTION C: LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS (120–150 Words)**

Q1. J.B. Priestley's *Mother's Day* uses comic exaggeration to expose a harsh realistic truth about middle-class family dynamics." Evaluate this statement. How does the play critique the unacknowledged and unpaid domestic labor performed by homemakers? Reference specific actions of George, Cyril, and Doris to substantiate your answer.

Q2. Extrapolate the message of *Mother's Day* to contemporary society. Despite advances in gender equality, do modern mothers still experience emotional and domestic exploitation within their households? Use incidents from the play to argue whether Priestley's resolution remains applicable today.

Q3. "Extensive structural changes sometimes require radical interventions." Evaluate Mrs. Fitzgerald's unconventional method of body-swapping and psychological shock therapy. Was her intrusive tactic ethically justifiable given the outcomes achieved?

Q4.Both Mother's Day and A.J. Cronin's Birth highlight the themes of selfless caregiving and dedication. Contrast the heroic, life-affirming duties performed by Dr. Andrew Manson with the unappreciated routine sacrifices made by Mrs. Pearson. Evaluate how societal recognition differs for public professional labor versus private domestic labor.

Q5.What constitutes a true "home"? Compare Annie Pearson's domestic sphere in Mother's Day—which functions like an unappreciative hotel—with the loss of home experienced by the narrator in The Address. Analyze how both texts define home not as physical shelter or material goods, but as mutual respect and emotional belonging.

## BIRTH

### Extract 1

"I have done something; oh, God! I've done something real at last."

1. What does the word "real" suggest about Andrew's state of mind before this incident?

2. Which theme is best reflected in this statement?

- A. Ambition for fame
- B. Professional fulfilment through service
- C. Financial success
- D. Personal happiness

3. Why does Andrew speak to God rather than to another person?

4. What does this statement reveal about Andrew's character?

### Extract 2

And then, as by a miracle, the pigmy chest, which his hands enclosed, gave a short, convulsive heave, another... and another... Andrew turned giddy. The sense of life, springing beneath his fingers after all that unavailing striving, was so exquisite it almost made him faint. He redoubled his efforts feverishly. The child was gasping now, deeper and deeper. A bubble of mucus came from one tiny nostril, a joyful iridescent bubble.

1. What did Andrew do after he noticed the baby's chest moving?
2. Why does the author use the phrase "as by a miracle" instead of simply stating that the baby started breathing?
3. What does the expression "unavailing striving" suggest about Andrew's earlier efforts?
  - A. They were careless.
  - B. They appeared unsuccessful for a long time.
  - C. They were unnecessary.
  - D. They were done unwillingly.
4. Which of the following best describes the progression of the extract?
  - A. Despair → Acceptance → Defeat
  - B. Hope → Anxiety → Failure
  - C. Hopelessness → Hope → Revival
  - D. Success → Celebration → Relief

#### Extract 3

Andrew smiled faintly. He saw that the old woman, wise in experience, realised there must be a period of waiting that, she was afraid he would leave the case, saying he would return later. "Don't fret, mother, I'll not run away."

Why was the old woman afraid?

What does Andrew's statement, "Don't fret, mother, I'll not run away," reveal about his attitude?

- A. He is annoyed with the old woman.
- B. He is patient, reassuring, and committed to his duty.
- C. He wants to leave quickly.
- D. He is making fun of her.

What can be inferred about Andrew's relationship with his patients?

Why does the author include the old woman's fear in the narrative?

#### Extract 4

The two men walked in silence until they reached the door of Number 12, then Joe drew up short. "I'll not come in," he said, and his voice showed signs of strain. "But, man, I know ye'll do well for us."

Who are the "two men" referred to in the extract?

What does the phrase "his voice showed signs of strain" suggest?

A. Joe was angry with Andrew.

B. Joe was emotionally anxious and frightened.

C. Joe was physically exhausted after walking.

D. Joe was speaking loudly.

3. What is conveyed through Joe's words, "I know ye'll do well for us"?

4. Why did Joe stop at the door instead of entering the house?

#### Extract 5

It was the conflict between his level, doubting mind and his overflowing heart which left him resentful and confused. He let his chin sink upon his chest, stretched out his legs, stared broodingly into the fire. He remained like this so long, and his thoughts were so filled with Christine, that he started when the old woman opposite suddenly addressed him. Her meditation had pursued a different course.

What inner conflict was Andrew experiencing?

Which emotion dominates Andrew's state of mind in this extract?

A. Joy

B. Pride

C. Emotional confusion and disappointment

D. Excitement

3. Why was Andrew staring into the fire?

4. Why does the author contrast Andrew's thoughts with the old woman's meditation?

### SAQs

1. Do you think the baby's survival was a miracle or the result of Andrew's perseverance? Give reasons.
2. In what ways is The Birth relevant to today's world?
3. If Andrew had given up after the first few unsuccessful attempts, how would the story's message have changed?
4. Why did the old woman fear that Andrew might leave the house?
5. What role does confidence play in achieving success? Support your answer with examples from the story.
6. Why was Andrew Manson called to Joe Morgan's house?
7. Why does Andrew call his achievement "something real"? What message does the author convey through this statement?
8. Why is Andrew's achievement described as both professional and personal?
9. Why was Andrew emotionally disturbed before reaching the Morgan house?
10. What is the significance of the title The Birth?

### LAQs

1. How does Andrew Manson emerge as a dedicated and compassionate doctor in The Birth?
2. "The Birth is not only the story of a baby's birth but also the birth of a doctor's confidence." Discuss.
3. "Hope without action is meaningless." Evaluate this statement with reference to The Birth.
4. Andrew says, "Oh God! I've done something real at last." What does this statement reveal about his understanding of success?
5. Examine the significance of Andrew's inner conflict in the story. How does he overcome it?

## Chapter 5: The Tale of Melon City

By Vikram Seth

### EXTRACTS



### Extract 1

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

“In the city of which I sing / There was a just and placid King. / The King proclaimed an arch should be / Constructed, and decreed that it / Should span the major thoroughfare / To edify spectators there.”

- (a) Who is the poet of this poem?
- (b) What kind of king is described here?
  - © What did the king proclaim?
- (d) What was the purpose of the arch?

### Extract 2

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

“The King rode down the thoroughfare / To edify spectators there. / Under the arch he lost his crown. / The arch was built too low. A frown / Appeared upon his placid face. / The King said, ‘This is a disgrace.’”

- (a) What happened when the king rode under the arch?
- (b) Why did the king lose his crown?
  - © How did the king react?
- (d) What does this incident set in motion?

### Extract 3

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

“The chief of builders was led out. / He passed the King. He gave a shout, / ‘O King, it was the workmen’s fault.’ / ‘Oh!’ said the King, and called a halt / To the proceedings. Being just / (And placid too) he said, ‘The chief of builders’ must get justice.’”

- (a) Who was brought before the king?
- (b) What did the chief of builders claim?
  - © How did the king respond?
- (d) What quality of the king is mentioned here?

#### Extract 4

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

“The King said, ‘This is a disgrace. / The age is not the factor here. / The strength of the arch is not clear. / Summon the architect,’ the King / Commanded. Being a just King / He thought the architect should hang.”

- (a) Whom did the king summon?
- (b) Why did the king want the architect to be punished?
  - © What does the king’s decision show about his idea of justice?
- (d) Is the king’s justice truly fair? Give a reason.

#### Extract 5

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

“The ministers all whispered, ‘Sire, / Consider what the people say. / They want a hanging, come what may.’ / The King said, ‘Let them have their way.’ / A noose was set up in the square. / The King was next – and that was fair.”

- (a) What did the ministers advise the king?
- (b) What did the people want?
  - © What was the final outcome?
- (d) What is ironic about the ending?

#### SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

(Answer the following questions in 30-40 words each)

1. What kind of king ruled the city in the poem?
2. Why was the arch constructed?
3. What happened when the king rode under the arch?
4. How did the blame for the low arch keep shifting?
5. Why was the wisest man in the country summoned?
6. What was the criterion for choosing the next king?
7. How was the melon chosen as the king?
8. What is the irony in the title 'The Tale of Melon City'?
9. What does the poem satirise?
10. What is the message of the poem?

#### LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

(Answer the following questions in 120-150 words each)

1. Describe the sequence of events that led to the hanging of the king. How does this reflect on the idea of justice in the poem?
2. 'The Tale of Melon City' is a satire on the process of fair trial and judgement. Discuss.
3. How does the poem use humour and irony to convey its message?
4. What is the significance of the melon being crowned as the king? What does it say about the people of the city?
5. Do you think the poem is relevant in today's world? Justify your answer with examples from the text.

#### ANSWERS – CHAPTER 5

##### Answers to Extracts

##### Extract 1:

- (a) Vikram Seth is the poet of this poem.
- (b) The king is described as just and placid.
  - © The king proclaimed that an arch should be constructed.
  - (d) The purpose of the arch was to edify (instruct and improve) the spectators.

Extract 2:

- (a) When the king rode under the arch, he lost his crown.
- (b) The king lost his crown because the arch was built too low.
  - © The king frowned and said that it was a disgrace.
- (d) This incident sets in motion a chain of events involving blame-shifting and eventually the king's own hanging.

Extract 3:

- (a) The chief of builders was brought before the king.
- (b) The chief of builders claimed that it was the workmen's fault.
  - © The king, being just, called a halt to the proceedings and said the chief of builders must get justice.
- (d) The king's quality of being just (and placid) is mentioned.

Extract 4:

- (a) The king summoned the architect.
- (b) The king wanted the architect to be punished because he held him responsible for the poorly designed arch.
  - © The king's decision shows that his idea of justice is based on finding someone to blame and punish, rather than understanding the real cause.
- (d) No, the king's justice is not truly fair because he keeps shifting the blame without proper investigation and eventually becomes a victim of his own flawed system.

Extract 5:

- (a) The ministers advised the king to consider what the people were saying.
- (b) The people wanted a hanging, come what may.
  - © The final outcome was that the king himself was hanged.
- (c) The irony is that the 'just' king, who ordered hangings for others, ends up being hanged himself due to the same process of 'justice'.

### Answers to Short Answer Questions

1. The city was ruled by a just and placid king. He was peaceful by nature and believed in delivering justice. However, his idea of justice was rigid and ultimately led to absurd consequences.
2. The arch was constructed on the king's orders. It was meant to span the major thoroughfare and to edify the spectators – that is, to instruct and improve the people who saw it.
3. When the king rode under the arch to inspect it, the arch was too low and knocked off his crown. The king was angry and considered it a disgrace. He ordered that the person responsible should be punished.
4. The blame kept shifting from one person to another. The chief of builders blamed the workmen. The workmen blamed the bricks. The bricks led to the architect being blamed. The architect cleverly pointed out that the king himself had made certain changes to the plans.
5. The wisest man in the country was summoned when the situation became complicated and no one seemed clearly guilty. Being old and wise, he was expected to give a fair judgement. He said that the arch itself was the culprit and should be hanged.
6. After the king's hanging, the ministers decided that the next person to pass through the city gate would choose the new king. This was done to follow a customary practice and to satisfy the people.
7. An idiot happened to pass through the city gate. When asked who should be the next king, he replied 'a melon' because that was his standard answer to every question. The ministers followed his words and crowned a melon as the king.
8. The irony in the title is that a city ends up being ruled by a melon. The 'just' process of selecting a king leads to an absurd outcome. The title highlights the ridiculousness of the entire system of justice and governance in the city.

9. The poem satirises the concept of rigid and mindless justice, the tendency to shift blame, the influence of public opinion on decisions, and the absurdity of systems where form is valued over substance. It also mocks the idea of passive acceptance by the people.
10. The message of the poem is that blind adherence to rules and the desire to please the public at any cost can lead to absurd and tragic outcomes. True justice requires wisdom and understanding, not just the mechanical application of procedures. Peace-loving people may accept any ruler as long as they are left alone.

#### Answers to Long Answer Questions

1. The sequence of events begins when the king orders an arch to be built. When he rides under it, the arch is too low and knocks off his crown. Enraged, he orders the chief of builders to be hanged. The chief blames the workmen, who blame the bricks, leading to the architect being summoned. The architect cleverly implicates the king himself. The king then consults the wisest man, who declares the arch guilty. Since the arch cannot be hanged practically, and the crowd demands a hanging, the noose is set up. It fits the king, so he is hanged. This reflects that the idea of justice in the poem is mechanical and absurd. The king, who prided himself on being just, becomes a victim of the same flawed system. Justice without wisdom leads to chaos and self-destruction.
2. 'The Tale of Melon City' is a sharp satire on the process of fair trial and judgement. The king considers himself just, yet his method of delivering justice is deeply flawed. Instead of investigating the real cause of the problem, he keeps shifting the blame from one person to another based on whoever is brought before him. Each accused person cleverly passes the responsibility to someone else. The involvement of the wisest man, who absurdly blames the arch, further mocks the idea of wise counsel. Finally, public opinion overrides reason, and the king himself is hanged simply because the noose fits him. The poem exposes how legal and judicial processes can become farcical when they prioritise form over substance and when those in power lack true wisdom.
3. The poem uses humour and irony extensively to convey its message. The very idea of a king being hanged because an arch was built too low is humorous in its absurdity. The continuous shifting of blame – from the chief of builders to the workmen, to the architect, and finally back to the king – creates a comic chain of events. The irony is sharp: the 'just and placid' king becomes the victim of his own justice system. The crowning of a melon as king is the

height of absurd humour. Through these devices, Vikram Seth criticises blind justice, the influence of the mob, and the passive nature of people who accept any ruler as long as they are left in peace. The light-hearted tone makes the serious message more impactful.

4. The crowning of a melon as king is highly significant. After the king's hanging, the ministers decide that the next person to pass the city gate will choose the new ruler. An idiot passes by and, as is his habit, answers 'a melon' to the question. The ministers crown a melon. This shows that the people of the city are passive and indifferent to who rules them. They are happy as long as they are left alone and the city functions peacefully. The melon-king does not interfere in their lives, and the people rejoice. The episode satirises the attitude of citizens who prefer a non-interfering, even absurd, ruler over one who might demand accountability or bring change. It reflects a society that values peace and non-interference above good governance.
5. Yes, the poem remains highly relevant in today's world. The tendency to shift blame rather than take responsibility is common in politics and administration even today. Leaders often pass the responsibility for failures onto subordinates or previous governments. The influence of public opinion and the desire to satisfy the crowd, even at the cost of reason, can still be seen in populist decisions. The poem also comments on the passive nature of citizens who accept whatever system is in place as long as their daily lives are not disturbed. The absurdity of rigid procedures that ignore common sense is a critique that applies to bureaucratic systems worldwide. Vikram Seth's satire continues to hold a mirror to the flaws in governance and public attitude.

## **"THE PORTRAIT OF A LADY" by KHUSHWANT SINGH**

### **ANSWER KEY**

#### **Extract Based Questions**

##### **Extract 1     Answer Key**

1. (A) His parents went to live in the city.
2. He listened purely because he loved her voice, not out of religious interest.

3. Monotonous.
- 

#### **Extract 2 Answer Key**

1. (C) He went in a motor bus.
  2. The new English medium school and the mechanized bus commute eliminated their shared routines and morning walks.
  3. It means the steady and continuous passage of time over several years.
- 

#### **Extract 3 Answer Key**

1. (B) The author going up to University.
  2. She quietly accepted changes without complaining, focusing her mind entirely on spinning and prayer.
  3. Seclusion.
- 

#### **Extract 4 Answer Key**

1. (C) At the railway station.
  2. She prioritised seeking divine protection and spiritual blessings for his journey over displaying personal grief.
  3. Emotional.
- 

#### **Extract 5 Answer Key**

1. (C) The home-coming of warriors.
2. It shows her grandson's return mattered so much that she paused her ultimate spiritual devotion just to celebrate.



3. Dilapidated.
- 

#### **Extract 6 Answer Key**

1. (C) The sacred rosary.
  2. She died just as she lived: quietly, peacefully, and completely immersed in absolute devotion and prayer.
  3. Pallor.
- 

#### **Short Answer Type Questions (Critical Thinking & Inferential)**

**3 Mark each**

#### **Answer Key**

**Ans 1:** The author had only seen her old, silver-haired, and deeply wrinkled for twenty years. To him, her old age was an absolute, permanent state, making it impossible and visually shocking to imagine her as a young girl.

**Ans 2:** She chanted her morning prayers in a monotonous sing-song voice while bathing and dressing him. Her goal was to intuitively imprint these holy verses into the author's mind, making spirituality a natural part of his morning.

**Ans 3:** She believed true education must provide spiritual grounding. She felt deeply distressed because the western school prioritized material science and music over teaching students about God, moral duties, and sacred religious scriptures.

**Ans 4:** Coming from a traditional background, she associated music exclusively with beggars, street performers, or courtesans. She believed music was meant for spiritual devotion, not an art form meant for respectable, decent family households.

**Ans 5:** Instead of complaining about her growing isolation, she used the rhythmic spinning wheel to anchor her focus. It kept her hands busy and her mind continuously repeating silent prayers, turning physical loneliness into peaceful meditation.

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**Long Answer Type Questions (Analytical & Evaluative)      6 mark each**

**Answer Key**

**Ans 1:** The move to the city serves as a structural catalyst that disrupts the organic, deeply intertwined bond the duo shared in the village. In the rural setup, their lives are synchronized; they walk together, share educational spaces, and engage in constant dialogue. However, the urban environment introduces institutional and technological barriers. The author's enrolment in an English medium school and his mechanized commute in a motor bus abruptly eliminate the grandmother's active role in his daily education and supervision. Although they continue to physically inhabit the same room, the shared psychological and emotional space shrinks dramatically. The city lifestyle imposes a division of labor and a modern routine that forces the grandmother into involuntary domestic retirement. This transformation demonstrates how modern urban architecture and structured daily routines can subtly alienate the elderly by dismantling traditional, community-based family dynamics.

**Ans 2:** The grandmother's interactions with animals serve as a vital emotional outlet for an innate nurturing instinct that modern circumstances gradually isolate from human

recipients. In the village, her routine of feeding stray chapatis to street dogs represents an active, public engagement with her community, anchoring her as a protective, maternal figure. When the urban transition confines her within concrete walls and deprives her of this social role, she creatively adapts her nurturing drive to her new boundaries by feeding courtyard sparrows. This shift signifies a deeper, internal retreat into silent companionship with nature. The sparrows' presence becomes a substitute for the grandson's dwindling company. Their final, silent gathering around her lifeless body is an uncanny, evaluative testament to a reciprocal spiritual bond. It indicates that her quiet benevolence was recognized by the natural world, elevating her routine from mere habit to a profound, universal communion with living beings.

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#### 10 Questions

**1. Answer:** This implies her beauty was spiritual rather than physical. Old age withered her appearance, but her inner peace, purity, and constant prayer gave her a serene, divine glow.

**2.** In the city, the author took a school bus, ending her role in his schooling. Sharing a room but barely talking, her disapproval of western education created an unavoidable emotional gap.

**3. Answer:** She held conservative views, believing music had lewd associations. To her, it was the monopoly of beggars and harlots, not meant for respectable children or gentlefolk.

**4. Answer:** She never complained when their room link broke. Instead, she lived quietly, dedicating her days to spinning yarn, reciting prayers, and feeding sparrows in the afternoon.

**5Answer:** Thousands of sparrows sat silently without chirping. They ignored the breadcrumbs thrown to them and flew away quietly once her corpse was carried off, showing genuine, silent grief.

**Ans 6:** She possessed immense inner strength and prioritized her grandson's career over personal grief. Expressing deep sorrow would mean weakness; instead, she chose to envelop him in silent spiritual protection through continuous prayer at the station.

**Ans 7:** It was the first time in twenty years she broke her rigid spiritual routine. Her intense joy over her grandson's return completely overwhelmed her devotion, proving that human attachment momentarily overpowered her strict religious discipline.

**Ans 8:** She ignored medical warnings, stopped talking to humans, and dedicated her final breaths entirely to prayer. She died peacefully while counting her beads, ensuring her soul departed completely immersed in the divine presence.

**Ans 9:** The sparrows were not there for food; they were mourning their lost companion. By ignoring the bread crumbs and sitting in absolute silence, they exhibited an uncanny, deep emotional grief for their gentle caregiver.

**Ans 10:** In the vast village, she freely fed stray dogs on open streets, symbolizing community connection. In the confined city house, she adapted by feeding courtyard sparrows, showcasing her enduring love for nature despite restrictive urban boundaries.

### **A Photograph**

#### **ANSWERS**

##### **EXTRACT -2**

- 1 Oxymoron
- 2 False
- 3 Expressing both Disappointment and Amusement

##### **EXTRACT 3**

- 1 B Deep speechless grief
- 2 sorrow
- 3 Because the painful loss of her dead mother leaves her completely speechless.

#### **SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

**1** Time has moved on, but what has not changed over the years is the sea. It is immortal. It appears to be the same today as it looked in the old photograph. It suggests the eternity of the sea. It also brings out the transient nature of man when compared to nature and its objects. The pretty faces and the feet of the three girls are 'terribly transient' or mortal when compared to the unchangeable and immortal sea.

2 The sea holiday and the laughter of the poet's mother are incidents of the past. There is a sense of loss associated with them. The above lines mean that the poet's mother felt pain whenever she saw the old photograph because the innocent childhood days would never be back. Those are just the memories. While the poet has lost her mother twelve years ago and she misses her a lot and recalls her laughing and pointing out the outfits they used to wear at the beach holidays. Both of them lost something. This sense of loss is quite painful to bear.

3 The word 'cardboard' denotes the stiff paper on which the old photograph is pasted. It has been used to indicate that the photograph is very old and belongs to a time when photographs were mounted on cardboard for preservation.

4 The sea in the picture is still the same today and has changed very less. It seems to wash their feet which by nature, are transient because human life is short-lived as compared to nature. Nature is perennial while human life is temporary or transient. The poet uses a transferred epithet (terribly transient feet) in order to make this comparison and highlight the terribly short-lived life of her mother.

5 The central theme is the passage of time, loss, and the pain of remembering loved ones who are no longer alive. The poem explores how memories are preserved through photographs but cannot bring back the people or moments captured

### LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1 The poem is divided into three stanzas, each representing a distinct phase of life, time, and human mortality:

- **First Stanza:** This stanza captures the past. It portrays the poet's mother as a sweet, innocent twelve-year-old girl, standing on a beach with her two cousins, enjoying a holiday. It reflects the carefree joy and permanence of childhood.
- **Second Stanza:** This stanza reflects the middle phase of life. It takes place years later, when the mother is an adult. When looking at the photograph, the mother laughs nostalgically, remembering her youth and her beach days. This phase highlights the rapid passage of time.
- **Third Stanza:** This stanza portrays the grim reality of the present. The poet's mother has been dead for about twelve years. The poet is left with her memories and an agonizing silence. This phase explores themes of grief, loneliness, and the inevitability of death.

2 In "A Photograph," the poet draws a sharp contrast between the short-lived existence of human beings and the eternal nature of the sea. In the photograph, the poet's mother and her cousins are standing on the beach. They are described as having "terribly transient feet," highlighting how quickly human life, youth, and beauty fade. People are bound to grow old, change, and eventually die.

In contrast, the sea, which washed their feet, appears to have changed very little over the years. Nature is portrayed as immortal and unchanging, continuing endlessly while human lives are merely temporary. The permanence of the sea highlights the temporary nature of human existence. Nature continuous it's cycle without change, while human beings experience birth, growth, ageing and death. This contrast deepens the sense of loss and makes the readers reflect on fleeting quality of life. The unchanging sea becomes a silent backdrop against the drama of human mortality is played out, making the poem both poignant and philosophical.

**We're not afraid to die.....**

### **ANSWER KEY**

#### **Extract 1**

**1 b                      2 b                      3 b                      4 a                      5 a                      6 b**

#### **Extract 2**

**1 a                      2 b                      3 b                      4 c                      5 b                      6 a**

#### **Extract 3**

**1 b                      2 b                      3 b                      4 a                      5 c                      6 b**

#### **Extract 4**

**1 b                      2 b                      3 b                      4 b                      5 b                      6 b**

#### **Extract 5**

**1 b                      2 b                      3 a                      4 b                      5 a                      6 a**

### **Short Answer Type Questions:**

1. The narrator had tested the Wavewalker in rough weather and equipped it with essential supplies and safety equipment. This careful preparation enabled the family to face the storm with confidence and increased their chances of surviving the dangerous conditions.
2. The storm produced enormous waves that severely damaged the Wavewalker and injured the narrator. The boat began flooding, essential equipment was lost, and the family had to battle exhaustion, fear, and harsh weather while trying to keep the boat afloat.

3. Although badly injured, the narrator quickly checked the condition of his family and the boat. He repaired the damage as much as possible, organised everyone to pump out water, and continued making careful decisions that helped the family survive.

4. Jonathan's words show his courage, maturity, and deep love for his family. Instead of giving in to fear, he comforted his father and showed that family unity gave him the strength to face even the possibility of death.

5. The narrator, Larry, and Herb worked continuously to repair the damaged boat and pump out the incoming water. Their teamwork, determination, and refusal to give up helped the Wavewalker remain afloat until they reached safety.

6. Despite suffering a serious head injury, Sue remained calm and never complained. She quietly endured her pain and encouraged her family with her bravery, inspiring everyone to stay hopeful and continue fighting for survival.

7. The family survived because they worked together and never lost hope. The narrator continued repairing the boat despite his injuries, while everyone helped pump out water and support one another throughout the storm.

8. The chapter shows that teamwork makes even the most difficult situations manageable. Every member of the family and crew contributed according to their ability, helping each other remain strong until they reached safety.

9. Initially, the narrator feared that the family would not survive the violent storm. However, as they continued fighting the crisis and finally sighted the island, his fear gave way to relief, gratitude, and renewed hope.

10. The chapter teaches that courage, determination, and family unity help people overcome even the toughest challenges. The family remained calm, worked together, and never gave up despite severe injuries, exhaustion, and a badly damaged boat, eventually reaching safety.

#### **Long Answer Type Questions:**

1. The narrator and his family survived the deadly storm because they remained calm, made wise decisions, and worked together. Instead of giving in to fear, the narrator focused on repairing the damaged boat and protecting his family. His wife continuously pumped out water despite exhaustion, while the children stayed brave and cooperative. Their careful planning before the voyage, along with their presence of mind during the crisis, helped them overcome each challenge. They never lost hope, even when the situation appeared hopeless. Modern-day readers learn that preparation, teamwork, courage, and quick decision-making are essential in overcoming difficulties. The chapter teaches that

determination and a positive attitude can help people face even the most dangerous situations successfully.

2. The narrator and his family proved that a positive attitude can make even the most difficult situations manageable. Although their boat was severely damaged by a giant wave, they refused to lose hope. The narrator continued repairing the boat while encouraging everyone to remain calm. His wife worked tirelessly to remove water from the cabin, and the children never complained despite injuries and fear. Jonathan's words that they were not afraid to die if they were together gave emotional strength to the entire family. Suzanne also remained patient and hopeful throughout the journey. Their optimism, courage, and faith in one another helped them survive the dangerous voyage. The chapter teaches that confidence and hope often become the greatest strengths during times of crisis.

3. **Diary Entry**

Tuesday, January 3, 1977

Time: 9:00 pm

Dear Diary

Today is a day I will never forget. After days of fear and uncertainty, we finally reached Ile Amsterdam safely. The terrible storm damaged our boat, and for a long time I was unsure whether we would survive. Watching my parents struggle to save the boat made me realise how brave and determined they are. Even though I was injured, I tried to remain hopeful because I knew fear would not help us. Jonathan's courage also inspired me throughout the journey. This experience has taught me that courage does not mean the absence of fear but the strength to face it. I have also learned that love, unity, and teamwork give us the power to overcome even the greatest challenges.

4. The narrator displayed excellent leadership during the storm by remaining calm and focused under extreme pressure. Instead of panicking, he carefully assessed the damage, repaired the boat, and made important decisions that increased the family's chances of survival. He encouraged his family to stay hopeful and assigned responsibilities according to each person's ability. His wife supported him by pumping out water continuously, while the



children remained calm because they trusted their parents. The narrator's confidence inspired everyone to continue fighting despite exhaustion and fear. His determination prevented despair from spreading among the family. Therefore, his leadership was highly effective because he motivated others through courage, responsibility, and positive action rather than through authority alone.

5.If the narrator addressed students, he would emphasise that challenges are a part of life, but courage and teamwork help people overcome them. He would explain how his family survived a deadly storm by staying calm, sharing responsibilities, and trusting one another. He would remind students that fear should never stop them from taking the right action. He would also stress the importance of preparation, quick thinking, and perseverance during difficult times. Referring to his children's bravery and his wife's unwavering support, he would highlight the value of unity and hope. Finally, he would encourage students to believe in themselves, support others, and face every challenge with confidence, determination, and resilience.

## **STUDY MATERIAL**

### **Discovering Tut: The Saga Continues....**

#### **Class 11**

#### **Answer Key**

##### **Extract 1:**

- 1. False
- 2. Dynasty/Family
- 3. He was a minor king and his reign was short
- 4. (a)
- 5.Emphases on historical interest vs. forensic science].

##### **Extract 2:**

- 1. False,
- 2. Resins,
- 3. Legal/standard excavation procedures,
- 4. (a),
- 5. Disrespect for human remains/damaging the mummy.

**Extract 3:**

- 1. False,
- 2. Breastbone, front ribs,
- 3. It suggests physical damage or possible foul play,
- 4. (c),
- 5. Moving from visual observation to internal/diagnostic analysis.

**Extract 4:**

- 1. False,
- 2. Pallbearers,
- 3. Creates an atmosphere of tension/awe,
- 4. (a),
- 5. Focus on the struggle of bringing ancient history into the modern scientific age.

**Extract 5:**

- 1. False (caused by sand),
- 2. Curse of the pharaoh,
- 3. Despite science, the "mystique" of the pharaohs still affects people,
- 4. (b),
- 5. Focus on how legends persist despite technological advancements.

**SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS:****Q1 Answer key points:**

- Carter wanted to examine and preserve the mummy scientifically.
- His methods were considered intrusive and insensitive.
- Highlights the ethical dilemma between historical research and respect for human remains.

**Q 2. Answer key points:**

- CT scanning allowed scientists to examine Tut's body without extensive physical disturbance.
- Technology provided detailed information about his health and physical condition.
- Shows how science can complement archaeology.

**Q 3 Answer key points:**

- His tomb was discovered largely intact.
- The treasures found inside attracted worldwide attention.
- His mysterious death and young age increased public fascination.

**Q 4 Answer key points:**

- Archaeological sites contain valuable information about ancient civilizations.
- Preservation helps future generations study history.
- Careless excavation can permanently damage historical evidence.

**Q 5. Answer key points:**

- Scientists wanted to understand his age, health and possible cause of death.
- Investigations can expand historical knowledge.
- However, examinations should follow ethical and respectful procedures.

**Q 6 Answer key points:**

- Earlier theories about Tut's death were based on limited evidence.
- CT scans and modern forensic methods offered new information.
- Historical interpretation is open to revision when reliable evidence emerges.

**Q 7. Answer key points:**

- Stories about the "curse of the pharaoh" created public curiosity.
- Tut's unexplained death added mystery.
- Media attention transformed an archaeological discovery into a global phenomenon.

**Q 8. Answer key points:**

- Probably not to the same extent.
- The treasures provided extraordinary visual and historical evidence.
- The discovery of the intact tomb made Tut exceptionally famous.

**Q 9. Answer key points:**

- Egyptians believed strongly in an afterlife.
- Valuable objects were placed with the dead for use in the next world.
- Burial practices reflected religious and cultural beliefs.

**Q 10. Answer key points:**

- Historical facts establish authenticity.
- Archaeological discoveries create curiosity.
- Scientific investigation provides evidence.
- Mystery surrounding Tut's death sustains interest.

**LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS:**

**1. Answer key points:**

- Howard Carter's discovery of the nearly intact tomb was extraordinary.
- The enormous collection of treasures attracted international attention.
- Tut's young age and mysterious death generated curiosity.
- Media and popular culture amplified the fascination.
- The discovery increased global interest in ancient Egyptian civilization.

**2. Answer key points:**

- Earlier investigators physically examined and handled the mummy.
- Modern CT scanning offered a less destructive approach.
- Scientific investigation revealed information about Tut's physical condition.
- Technology can provide evidence that changes historical theories.
- Researchers must balance knowledge-seeking with dignity and preservation of human remains.

**3. Answer key points:**

- Obtain appropriate permissions and follow archaeological guidelines.
- Use non-invasive techniques wherever possible.
- Avoid unnecessary physical handling or damage.
- Document all findings carefully.
- Respect the cultural and religious significance of the remains.
- Share findings responsibly without sensationalising them.

**4. Answer key points:**

- Much about Tut's life and death was initially uncertain.
- Archaeologists interpreted physical and material evidence.
- Different investigations produced different explanations.
- CT scanning supplied additional evidence.
- New discoveries can modify or challenge earlier interpretations.
- Therefore, historical knowledge develops through continuous investigation.

**5. Answer key points:**

- His tomb and treasures provide substantial historical evidence.
- His short reign and early death leave important questions unanswered.
- The circumstances surrounding his death remain a subject of investigation.
- Scientific technology has answered some questions but also generated new ones.
- The contrast between archaeological evidence and unresolved mystery keeps the story relevant and fascinating.

**Topic- The laburnum Top**

**Answers**

**Extract Based Answers**

**(Extract-1)**

1. (c) a and b
2. Alliteration

3. When the bird arrives at the branch end suddenly something amazing such as vibrant chirping takes place.
4. Autumn
5. (c) Both 1 and 2 can be inferred from the extract
6. (c) still

**(Extract-2)**

1. She refers to the bird goldfinch.
2. Simile
3. "The machine startup" means on arrival of the bird the young ones start chirping and vibrating their tiny wings.
4. The whole tree trembles and thrills on arrival of the bird.
5. The tree/ laburnum top
6. (c) Both 1 and 2 can be inferred from the extract

**(Extract-3)**

1. (b) Metaphor
2. She refers to the bird goldfinch.
3. "She stokes it full" means the bird feeds it's young ones.
4. When the bird flies away in the sky the tree ones again seems lifeless.
5. silent/ lifeless
6. (c) Both 1 and 2 can be inferred from the extract

**Answers SAQs**

1. At the beginning of the poem the tree is quite still and silent. It seemed as if there was no life in the tree.
2. As the bird goldfinch arrives the tree is suddenly very excited and thrilled. It is very vibrant and full of life.
3. The bird quietly moves on the branch of the tree and the lizard also moves freely on the walls therefore the bird has been compared to a lizard.
4. "It is the engine of her family" means the bird runs it's family. It brings the food and feeds it's young ones.
5. The poem the laburnum top contrasts the tree's silence and lifelessness with the sudden vibrant activity of the bird and her chicks, showing how nature transforms from stillness to vibrant life.
6. Image of the engine been evoked by the poet to highlight the idea that the mother runs her family and takes care of her young ones.
7. "And the laburnum subsides to empty." Reflects the importance of bird, when it flies away the tree becomes quite silent and it seems lifeless.

**Answers LAQs-**

**Q1.** The laburnum tree is quiet, still, and almost lifeless at the beginning of the poem. It stands in the yellow September sunlight with its leaves turning yellow, creating an atmosphere of silence and inactivity. The tree appears empty and motionless, symbolising loneliness and dormancy in nature.

The scene changes dramatically when the goldfinch arrives. She enters the thick branches where her young ones are hidden. As soon as she reaches the nest, the chicks begin chirping excitedly, fluttering their wings, and demanding food. The silent tree suddenly comes alive with movement and sound. The poet compares this sudden burst of activity to the rapid functioning of a machine, showing how the presence of the mother bird fills the tree with energy and vitality. After feeding her chicks, the goldfinch flies away, and the tree gradually returns to its earlier silence and stillness.

These changes symbolically express the reality of life. The laburnum tree represents the world, while the goldfinch symbolises love, care, and the nurturing force of life. Her arrival transforms a lifeless environment into one full of joy and activity, showing that love and relationships bring meaning and happiness to life. Her departure reminds us that moments of joy are often temporary and that life naturally moves through cycles of activity and calm. Thus, the poem highlights the close connection between nature, motherhood, and the continuous cycle of life, where silence and activity, absence and presence, exist together.

**Q.2-** The poet uses vivid imagery and several poetic devices to make the poem lively and meaningful.

Visual imagery is created through descriptions such as the yellow September sunlight, the yellow leaves, and the golden laburnum tree. These images help readers imagine the peaceful autumn setting. Auditory imagery is created by the chirping of the young birds, allowing readers to hear the sudden burst of life in the tree.

The poet uses similes effectively. The goldfinch's movement is compared to a lizard slipping through the branches, emphasizing her quick and silent motion. The tree's sudden activity is compared to the engine of a machine starting up, highlighting the dramatic change from silence to liveliness.

Personification is also used when the tree is described as becoming alive with excitement. The poem contains symbolism as well. The goldfinch represents motherhood, care, and life, while the tree symbolizes nature waiting to be awakened.

These poetic devices make the poem more expressive and help readers appreciate the beauty, energy, and harmony found in nature.

**Q.3-** "The Laburnum Top" beautifully presents nature as a living and interconnected world. The poem begins with a quiet laburnum tree standing in the stillness of an autumn afternoon. The peaceful atmosphere changes completely when a goldfinch arrives at the tree.

The goldfinch enters the branches to feed her young chicks hidden in the nest. The chicks welcome their mother with joyful chirping and excited movements. The tree, which had appeared lifeless, suddenly becomes vibrant and energetic. This change shows the powerful influence of the mother bird's presence.

The poet also highlights the deep bond between the mother and her young ones. The goldfinch carefully feeds and cares for her chicks before flying away. Once she leaves, the tree returns to silence, showing that the brief moments of love and care had filled it with life.

The poem conveys the message that love, care, and family relationships are central to life in nature. It also reminds us that even the smallest creatures contribute to the beauty and balance of the natural world.

### **ANSWER KEY (The Voice Of The Rain)**

#### **A. Extract-Based Answers**

##### **Extract 1**

- 1.The poet.
- 2.The rain replies to the poet.
- 3.Personification.
- 4.To show its gentle nature.
- 5.Harmony between humans and nature.

##### **Extract 2**

- 1.The rain.
- 2.It nurtures and sustains life.
- 3.Metaphor.
- 4.Life-giving, creative, nurturing.
- 5.Nature is beautiful and 6.life-supporting.

##### **Extract 3**

- 1.Evaporation.
- 2.Invisible; cannot be touched.
- 3 To emphasize its vastness.
- 4 Water cycle.
- 5.Epithet/Imagery.

#### Extract 4

- 1.To wash or bathe.
- 2.It removes dryness and dust.
- 3.It nourishes plants and living beings.
- 4.Selfless service.
- 5.Compassion, responsibility, generosity.

#### Extract 5

- 1.Rain is compared to a song.
- 2.Creative work or art.
- 3.It enriches the world before returning.
- 4.Simile/Analogy.
- 5.Good deeds return with appreciation and love.

#### B. Short Answer (Value Points)

- 1.Curiosity about nature; poetic imagination.
- 2.It sustains life and beautifies the earth.
- 3 Invisible and intangible.
- 4 Evaporation → Condensation → Rainfall → Renewal.
- 5 Washes dust, nourishes plants, removes dryness.

#### C. Long Answer (Value Points)

##### 1. Water Cycle

Rain explains its journey.

Evaporation from land and sea.

Formation of clouds.



Rainfall.

Nourishes earth.

Returns to its source.

Scientific process presented poetically.

2. Symbolism of Rain

Source of life.

Purity.

Renewal.

Hope.

Selfless service.

Harmony with nature.

## **CHILDHOOD**

### **ANSWERS**

#### **EXTRACT -1**

1 – B His ability to think logically and question accepted beliefs

2 REASON

3 A Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of

#### **EXTRACT -2**

1 C

2 DIFFERENCE

3 FALSE

#### **EXTRACT -3**

1 B

2 HIDDEN

3 The infant's face symbolises innocence, purity and simplicity. The poet believes these qualities disappear with age, making childhood something that survives only in very young children.

#### EXTRACT -4

1 B

2 Individuality

3 TRUE

#### SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1 The poet links childhood with innocent beliefs. When he understands that Heaven and Hell are not physical places but matters of faith, he realizes he has started thinking logically. This marks an important step towards adulthood.

2 The poet observes that many adults fail to practice what they preach. Their actions often contradict their words, making him aware of hypocrisy. This realization ends his idealistic view of adults and shows emotional maturity.

3 The poet realizes that his thoughts are his own and need not match others' opinions. Developing independent judgment and making personal choices show intellectual maturity and mark the transition from childhood to adulthood.

4 The poem conveys that childhood ends when a person develops independent thinking and recognises the difference between appearance and reality. It also reminds us that innocence is precious and survives only in the minds and faces of young children.

3 Symbols make the poem more meaningful and thought-provoking. They encourage readers to interpret the deeper meaning of innocence, belief, and maturity instead of simply reading factual statements.

#### LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1 The poem presents childhood as a stage of innocence, trust, and unquestioning belief. The poet wonders when this stage ended and recalls several important realizations. He first questions the existence of Heaven and Hell as physical places, showing the beginning of logical thinking. Later, he notices that adults often fail to practice the values they preach, making him aware of hypocrisy. Finally, he realizes that he has developed the ability to think independently and form his own opinions. These experiences gradually transform him from a child into a mature individual.

In the final stanza, the poet concludes that childhood has not vanished completely but survives in the innocent faces of infants. Through these reflections, the poem shows that growing up is a gradual process of gaining knowledge, wisdom, and self-awareness while leaving behind the simplicity of childhood

2 As I look back, I often wonder when my childhood quietly slipped away. Perhaps it happened when I stopped believing everything I was told and began asking questions. I realized that the world was more complex than I had imagined. Adults, whom I once admired without doubt, were not always perfect. They sometimes failed to live by the values they taught. Slowly, I discovered that I had my own mind and the freedom to think differently.

Although I have grown older, I still miss the innocence, curiosity, and happiness of childhood. I believe those qualities have not disappeared forever; they continue to shine in the smiles and faces of little children. Remembering them inspires me to remain honest, kind, and hopeful even as I grow into adulthood.

3

Thursday, 9 July 2026

9:30 p. m.

Dear Diary

Today, I finally found the answer to a question that has stayed with me for years—where my childhood has gone. I used to think it had disappeared forever, but now I understand that it lives on in the innocent face of every infant. As I grew older, I began questioning old beliefs, noticing the gap between what people said and what they actually did. I also realized that I could think independently and make my own choices. These experiences slowly took me away from the carefree world of childhood. Although I miss those simple and joyful days, I feel comforted knowing that childhood is never truly lost. It continues to shine through the purity, honesty, and curiosity of young children. This realization has taught me to value innocence and kindness and to preserve these qualities even as I grow into a responsible and thoughtful adult. I will always cherish the memories of my childhood.

## **THE ADVENTURE**

**Jayant Narlikar**

**Class XI**

### **ANSWER KEY**

#### **SECTION A: EXTRACT-BASED ANSWERS**

##### **Extract 1**

##### **MCQs:**

1. b) Jijamata Express

2. b) Lonavala
3. b) An Anglo-Indian in uniform

**Very Short Answers:**

4. The Jijamata Express was considerably faster than the Deccan Queen.
5. There were no industrial townships outside Pune.
6. An Anglo-Indian officer checked the passengers' permits. Khan Sahib told Gaitonde that British rule began from that point.

**Extract 2**

**MCQs:**

1. b) To meet his son Vinay
2. b) There was no one named Vinay on the staff list
3. c) The period after Aurangzeb

**Very Short Answers:**

4. The East India Company was still flourishing and functioning.
5. He went to the Town Hall (Asiatic Society) library.
6. He wanted to understand how history had taken a different course in this world.

**Extract 3**

**MCQs:**

1. b) The Marathas
2. b) He was defeated and pursued back to Kabul
3. b) It was reduced to a commercial presence only

**Very Short Answers:**

4. It established Maratha supremacy in northern India.
5. India had never been subjected to full colonial rule; the British had only limited commercial presence.
6. Because it described a completely different outcome of the Battle of Panipat from the history he knew.

**Extract 4**

**MCQs:**

1. b) Habit made him do so
2. b) They were shocked and shouted him down
3. b) He was pushed off the stage and knocked unconscious

**Very Short Answers:**

4. It was kept empty as a symbolic gesture; no one was supposed to sit on it.
5. They considered it sacrilege for anyone to occupy the empty presidential chair.
6. He decided never to preside over any public meeting or lecture again (he considered the Azad Maidan incident as his 1000th occasion).

**Extract 5**

**MCQs:**

1. c) In the present but in a different world
2. b) Catastrophe Theory and Quantum Theory
3. b) Whether Vishwasrao was hit by a bullet or not

**Very Short Answers:**

4. He meant that Gaitonde had not time-travelled but had experienced an alternate reality existing simultaneously in the present.
5. It suggests that at critical moments, small changes can lead to drastically different outcomes, creating branching paths in history.
6. He produced a torn page from the Bakhar (of the alternate world) that described how the bullet had missed Vishwasrao.

## **SECTION B: SHORT ANSWER TYPE – ANSWERS**

1. Professor Gangadharpant Gaitonde was a historian living in Pune. He was a well-known public figure who frequently presided over meetings and lectures. He had written five volumes on Indian history and had a deep interest in historical facts and their implications.
2. Gaitonde travelled on the Jijamata Express from Pune to Bombay. The train was faster than the Deccan Queen. It stopped at Lonavala in 40 minutes, passed through the ghat section, and halted at Sarhad after a long tunnel, where permits were checked. The journey felt both familiar and strangely different.
3. Khan Sahib was a fellow passenger on the train. He told Gaitonde that British rule began from Sarhad station. He was travelling to Peshawar via the Frontier Mail from Bombay Central and offered Gaitonde insights about the journey and the political geography of that world.
4. At Victoria Terminus, Gaitonde was shocked to see the East India Company still flourishing. The station was clean, British officers were present, and the Union Jack was visible. This contradicted the history he knew, in which the British had left India in 1947.
5. In the alternate world, the Marathas had won the Battle of Panipat. Vishwasrao survived, Abdali was defeated and driven back to Kabul, and Maratha supremacy was established in northern India. As a result, India never came under full British colonial rule.
6. In the history books Gaitonde knew, Vishwasrao was killed by a bullet, demoralising the Maratha army, leading to their defeat. In the Bakhar of the alternate world, the bullet missed Vishwasrao. He rallied the troops, and the Marathas won the battle.
7. At Azad Maidan, Gaitonde saw an empty presidential chair. Out of habit, he occupied it. The audience was furious because the chair was meant to remain symbolic and vacant. They shouted him down, pushed him off the stage, and in the chaos he was knocked unconscious.
8. Rajendra explained that Gaitonde had neither gone to the past nor the future. Using Catastrophe Theory and Quantum Theory, he said that at critical moments history can branch into different realities. Gaitonde had transitioned into a parallel world where the Marathas had won at Panipat.
9. The torn page from the Bakhar was physical evidence that Gaitonde's experience was real and not a dream or hallucination. It contained the account of Vishwasrao surviving the bullet, proving that he had been in an alternate historical reality.
10. After the humiliating experience at Azad Maidan in the alternate world, Gaitonde felt he had completed his thousandth public appearance. He decided never to preside over any meeting again and even sent his regrets for a seminar at Panipat.

## **SECTION C: LONG ANSWER TYPE – ANSWERS**

1. In the alternate India experienced by Professor Gaitonde, the Marathas had won the Third Battle of Panipat. Vishwasrao survived and the Maratha power was consolidated. Consequently, the East India Company remained only a commercial entity and never established political dominance. Bombay looked familiar yet different—British banks and shops existed, but India as a whole was independent

and prosperous under Indian leadership. There were no industrial townships of the kind Gaitonde knew near Pune, and the railway system showed British administrative markers. History books recorded a completely different course of events after Aurangzeb. This India had never suffered colonial subjugation in the way the real India had. Gaitonde found both continuity and startling differences, which made him realise he was in a parallel reality.

2. Rajendra Deshpande used two scientific ideas to explain Gaitonde's experience. The Catastrophe Theory suggests that at certain critical points, a system can shift suddenly from one state to another. In history, the moment when Vishwasrao was (or was not) hit by a bullet was such a catastrophic point. The lack of determinism in Quantum Theory implies that an event can have multiple possible outcomes existing simultaneously until observed. Applying this to history, Rajendra argued that two worlds branched out from the Battle of Panipat—one where the Marathas lost and one where they won. Gaitonde, at the moment of his accident while thinking of this very question, made a transition into the other world and later returned. Thus his "adventure" was a movement between parallel realities existing in the present.

3. The story powerfully illustrates that a single event can alter the entire course of a nation's history. In the reality Gaitonde knew, Vishwasrao was killed by a bullet at Panipat. This demoralised the Maratha army; Bhausaheb was lost, and the Marathas were defeated. The power vacuum that followed allowed the East India Company to expand and eventually colonise India. In the parallel world, the same bullet missed Vishwasrao. He survived, rallied the troops, and the Marathas won. This victory established their supremacy, limited British power to commerce, and kept India free from colonial rule. The story shows how a microscopic difference—whether a bullet hits or misses—can create two entirely different historical trajectories and two different Indias.

4. 'The Adventure' skilfully blends historical fact with science fiction. The historical core is the Third Battle of Panipat (1761) and the real question of what might have happened had the Marathas won. Narlikar uses this genuine historical puzzle as the foundation. He then introduces science-fiction elements: a parallel world, a transition caused by an accident, and the explanation through Catastrophe Theory and Quantum Theory. The detailed description of an alternate Bombay, the still-functioning East India Company, the different history books, and the Bakhar account give the fantasy a realistic texture. The story remains grounded in recognisable places (Pune, Bombay, Azad Maidan, Town Hall library) while exploring the imaginative possibility of multiple co-existing realities. This fusion makes the narrative both intellectually stimulating and engaging.

5. Professor Gaitonde is portrayed as a serious, dedicated historian who lives by facts and logic. He is a public figure accustomed to presiding over meetings (he had completed 999 such occasions). His curiosity about the "what if" of history leads him, after an accident, into an alternate reality. In that world he remains methodical—he visits the library, compares books, and searches for rational explanations. The incident at Azad Maidan, however, shakes him deeply. Being publicly humiliated and thrown off the stage makes him decide never to preside again. When he returns to his own world, the experience leaves a lasting impact; he accepts Rajendra's scientific explanation and carries the torn Bakhar page as proof. The adventure transforms him from a conventional historian into someone who has personally encountered the mysterious, non-linear nature of reality.

## ANSWERS

#### PASSAGE 1

1. The passage shows that the travellers' journey was challenging, risky and physically demanding.
2. bullet
3. a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A

#### PASSAGE 2

1. a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
2. Huge.
3. Explode into action.

#### PASSAGE 3

1. b) To check how sturdy the snow was
2. b) Struggle
3. Slither

#### PASSAGE 4

1. Darchen
2. c) He wore no white coat or the usual medical paraphernalia.
3. It indicates that he was suffering from physical discomfort caused by the high altitude.

#### PASSAGE 5

1. Darchen appeared better to the narrator because he had a good night's sleep, and the bright sunshine and clear blue sky improved his mood.
2. True
3. Gurla Mandhata

#### SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. The author undertook the journey to complete the pilgrimage to Mount Kailash and experience the sacred landscape of Tibet.
2. Tsetan was the author's driver and guide. He drove him through the difficult terrain of Tibet and helped him during the journey.
3. The mastiffs were huge, aggressive guard dogs that charged towards the travellers at great speed when they approached the nomads' tents.
4. They encountered a large snow patch that blocked the road. The steep bank made it impossible to drive around it, so Tsetan had to carefully test the snow before crossing.
5. He visited the medical college because he was suffering from sleeplessness and had developed an aversion to lying down.
6. The doctor asked him several questions and examined his wrist. He prescribed Tibetan medicine, which helped the author recover.
7. Initially, Darchen seemed horrible to him, but after sleeping well, he noticed its beautiful surroundings and the magnificent view of the Himalayas.

8. Gurla Mandhata is a huge, snow-capped mountain that adds grandeur and beauty to the landscape and becomes a memorable sight for the author.

9. It reveals that the journey was physically challenging but also filled with breathtaking natural beauty and memorable experiences.

10. The lesson shows that travellers must adapt to the difficult terrain, extreme conditions and unpredictable environment while respecting the natural surroundings.

#### LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Monday

21 August 2026

9:00 p.m.

Dear Diary

Today was a memorable and refreshing day in Darchen. After a good night's sleep, I felt much better and my discomfort had reduced considerably. I was able to look at my surroundings with a calmer and more positive mind.

Darchen was still dusty and partially derelict, with heaps of rubble and refuse scattered around. However, the bright sunshine and the clear blue sky completely changed my impression of the place. The pleasant weather made everything appear more beautiful.

My visit to the Darchen medical college was also an interesting experience. Tsetan took me there the previous morning because I had been suffering from sleeplessness and had developed an aversion to lying down. The Tibetan doctor examined me carefully and asked me several questions. I was surprised by his simple appearance because he wore no white coat or conventional medical attire. Instead, he wore a thick pullover and a woolly hat.

The most breathtaking sight was the magnificent Gurla Mandhata. The huge, snow-capped mountain stood majestically against the clear sky, with a tiny wisp of cloud over its summit. Looking at the Himalayas filled me with wonder and admiration. The beauty of nature made me forget my physical discomfort and reminded me that travelling is not only about reaching a destination but also about experiencing new places and cultures.

I feel grateful for this unforgettable experience. Despite the difficulties of the journey, today has given me a renewed sense of hope and excitement for the adventure ahead.

Good night

2. The chapter *Silk Road* highlights important values such as courage, perseverance, patience, adaptability and cooperation. The narrator faces



several difficulties during his journey, including extreme altitude, harsh weather, difficult roads and physical discomfort. At an altitude of 5,210 metres, the travellers encounter a dangerous snow patch. Tsetan carefully tests the snow before proceeding, showing caution, responsibility and practical wisdom. The narrator also suffers from sleeplessness and discomfort at Darchen, but he does not abandon his journey. Instead, he seeks medical help and continues with determination. Tsetan's constant support reflects the importance of teamwork and compassion. The narrator also learns to appreciate unfamiliar surroundings and Tibetan culture. His admiration for the magnificent Gurla Mandhata shows his ability to find beauty even in difficult circumstances. Thus, the chapter teaches us to face challenges positively, adapt to changing situations and move forward with courage and patience.

3. Both *Silk Road* and *The Portrait of a Lady* show that resilience and adaptability help people cope with change and difficult situations. In *Silk Road*, the narrator faces harsh weather, high altitude, physical discomfort and difficult roads during his journey to Mount Kailash. Instead of giving up, he adapts to the challenging environment and continues his journey. Tsetan's careful handling of the dangerous snow patch also reflects courage and practical wisdom. In *The Portrait of a Lady*, the author's relationship with his grandmother changes when he moves to the city and later goes to university. Although these changes create distance between them, the grandmother accepts them with remarkable calmness and dignity. Her simple routine, prayers and affection for the author remain unchanged. Both chapters therefore teach us to accept change with patience, remain strong during difficulties and value relationships and experiences with maturity.

4. If I were in the narrator's situation, I would remain calm, patient and alert rather than panic. I would understand that the snow patch was dangerous because the bank was too steep and there was no alternative route. I would rely on the experience and judgement of the driver before proceeding. Tsetan demonstrates remarkable courage, caution, practical wisdom and presence of mind. He carefully steps onto the encrusted snow and stamps his foot to check its strength before moving forward. His actions show that difficult situations should be handled with patience and careful planning rather than haste. The narrator, meanwhile, remains observant and attentive to his surroundings. He notices the difficult conditions and records the altitude as 5,210 metres

above sea level. From Tsetan, I would learn to make wise decisions under pressure, while from the narrator, I would learn to remain observant and composed.

5. The journey in *Silk Road* is much more than travelling from one place to another. It is an experience in which the author encounters unfamiliar landscapes, people, customs and challenges. He has to adapt to the high altitude, rough roads, cold weather and difficult terrain. His encounters with the Tibetan mastiffs and the nomads give him an insight into the local way of life. His illness at Darchen also teaches him to depend on local knowledge and medical practices. The magnificent landscape, especially the view of Gurla Mandhata, adds a sense of wonder to the journey. Through these experiences, the author discovers not only Tibet but also his own ability to adapt to unfamiliar circumstances. Thus, the journey becomes a combination of adventure, cultural experience and personal discovery.

## **FATHER TO SON**

### **ANSWER KEY**

#### **EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS:**

##### **Extract 1**

1. c
2. Enjambment
3. It symbolizes physical closeness but emotional separation.

##### **Extract 2**

1. a
2. The son is compared to a seed nurtured by the father.
3. Breakdown of communication within families.

##### **Extract 3**

1. The father believes the son has inherited his qualities and upbringing.
2. b

3. Alliteration ("Silence surrounds") and symbolism; it intensifies the feeling of isolation.

#### **Extract 4**

1. a

2. They have failed to communicate honestly over the years.

3. Desire for reconciliation despite having nothing concrete to offer.

#### **Extract 5**

1. a

2. Communication and empathy are essential in relationships.

3. Both father and son show willingness to understand each other, leaving room for reconciliation.

### **SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

**Answer 1.** The comparison shows that the father sees his son as a part of himself, yet feels disconnected from him. It reflects his love, disappointment, and helplessness.

**Answer 2.** I would try to communicate openly, understand my father's concerns, and make an effort to rebuild trust because strong family relationships require understanding from both sides.

**Answer 3.** The poem suggests that a lack of communication creates emotional distance, while honest conversation and understanding are essential for maintaining healthy family relationships.

**Answer 4.** Yes. The father struggles to understand his son's changing identity, while the son also remains emotionally distant instead of expressing his feelings.

**Answer 5.** Families should communicate regularly, respect each other's individuality, and resolve misunderstandings before they grow into emotional barriers.

### **LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS**

**ANSWER 1** The father's expression of regret instead of anger makes the poem deeply touching and realistic. He does not accuse or criticize his son for the broken relationship. Instead, he reflects on his own sadness and helplessness, wondering why they have become strangers despite being father and son. His gentle tone reveals unconditional love and a sincere desire to reconnect with his child. This emotional honesty allows readers to sympathize with the father and understand the pain of losing emotional closeness within a family. The absence of blame also shows that relationships are often damaged by misunderstanding rather than hatred. The poem becomes more meaningful because it reminds readers that love can exist even when communication fails. It encourages both parents and children to express their feelings before emotional distance becomes permanent.

**ANSWER 2.** The poem presents a situation that is common in many families across the world. It shows how parents and children can become emotionally distant because of changing values, different expectations, and poor communication. The father loves his son deeply but feels unable to understand him, while the son remains silent and emotionally withdrawn. This reflects the challenges faced by many modern families, where busy schedules, changing lifestyles, and technological distractions reduce meaningful interaction. The poem reminds readers that love alone is not enough to maintain strong relationships; communication, mutual respect, and empathy are equally important. It encourages both parents and children to accept each other's individuality and make sincere efforts to understand one another. Therefore, the poem conveys a universal message about preserving family bonds through trust, patience, and open communication.

## Snapshots (Supplementary Reader)

### Chapter 1: The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse

#### ANSWERS KEY

#### Answers to Extracts

#### EXTRACT 1

- (i) B – He behaved in an unusual and eccentric manner.
- (ii) Mourad woke the narrator by tapping on the window of his room at four in the morning.
- (iii) B – Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- (iv) nine

#### EXTRACT 2

- (i) A – Honesty.
- (ii) The Garoghlanian family was extremely poor and poverty-stricken.
- (iii) C – A is true, but R is false.
- (iv) proud

### **EXTRACT 3**

- (i) B – Mourad sitting on a beautiful white horse.
- (ii) Mourad replied in Armenian.
- (iii) A – Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (iv) white

### **EXTRACT 4**

- (i) A – He made a sound with his tongue, teeth and lips.
- (ii) It reveals that Mourad had a special bond with the horse and possessed a natural understanding of animals.
- (iii) B – Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- (iv) tongue

### **EXTRACT 5**

- (i) B – His heart was more reliable than his eyes.
- (ii) His heart told him that the Garoghlanian family were honest people and could not have stolen his horse.
- (iii) D – A is false, but R is true.
- (iv) honest

### **Answers to Short Answer Questions**

- 11. Mourad was the narrator Aram's cousin. He was considered crazy by everybody who knew him except Aram. He had a natural love for horses and a unique, adventurous spirit. He was full of life and energy.
- 12. The narrator felt that taking the horse was not really stealing because they were not going to sell it. They only wanted to ride it for fun. Moreover, they belonged to a tribe that was known for its honesty, so they believed their intention was pure.

13. When Aram first rode the white horse, it did not behave well. It leaped over vines and raced across the fields. Aram could not control it and was thrown off. The horse ran away and Mourad had to go looking for it.
14. When Uncle Khosrove was told about the missing horse, he became furious and shouted, "It is no harm; pay no attention to it." He dismissed the matter completely in his usual temperamental way.
15. John Byro examined the horse carefully and said that it was the twin of his own missing horse. He noticed that the teeth, the eyes and every detail matched his horse, yet he chose to trust the honesty of the boys' family.
16. Mourad hid the horse longer because he wanted to teach it to be a better horse and also because both boys enjoyed riding it. They could not resist the temptation of the beautiful white horse.
17. The Garoghlanian family was known for its honesty and integrity for eleven centuries. Even though they were extremely poor, they never stole. Their reputation for honesty was more important than any material possession.
18. After about a month, Mourad returned the horse to John Byro's vineyard early one morning. The next day John Byro came to the boys' house to thank them, saying the horse was better-tempered than ever.
19. The story emphasises that true honesty comes from within. Even when no one is watching, people of integrity return what does not belong to them. The boys' decision to return the horse upholds their family's honour.
20. The boys returned the horse after a month because their conscience troubled them. John Byro's words about the honesty of their family made them realise that keeping the horse was wrong. They valued their family's reputation above personal pleasure.

XI. Mourad is one of the most interesting characters in the story. He was Aram's cousin and was considered crazy by most people, but Aram understood him. Mourad had a deep love for horses and possessed a natural gift for handling them. He was adventurous, full of energy and lived in a world of his own imagination. Unlike other members of the Garoghlanian family who strictly followed the code of honesty, Mourad took the horse for a joyride. However, he never intended to sell it or keep it permanently. His crazy behaviour was actually a reflection of his free spirit and zest for life. He was different because he dared to dream and act on his impulses while still ultimately respecting the family's values by returning the horse.

XII. The story beautifully illustrates the values of honesty and integrity. The Garoghlanian family had a reputation for honesty that had lasted for eleven centuries. Even though the boys took the horse without permission, they never thought of selling it or permanently keeping it. When John Byro met them and spoke about the honesty of their tribe, the boys were deeply moved. His trust in their family's reputation made them feel guilty. Eventually, they returned the horse, and it was found to be better-tempered than before. The story teaches that true honesty is tested when one has the opportunity to do wrong without being caught. The boys passed this test and upheld the honour of their family.

XIII. Aram and Mourad justified taking the horse by saying that it was not stealing in the real sense. They argued that they were not going to sell the horse or keep it forever. They only wanted to enjoy riding it for some time. According to them, stealing would mean taking something with the intention of permanently depriving the owner of it. Since their intention was pure and temporary, they felt it was not theft. This reveals that the boys had a strong sense of moral values. They were aware of the difference between right and wrong. Their family's tradition of honesty was deeply rooted in them. Even while doing something wrong, they tried to justify it in a way that did not completely violate their principles. Eventually, their conscience made them return the horse.

XIV. One day, while the boys were taking the horse back to its hiding place, they met John Byro, the owner of the horse. He was walking with his surrey. He recognised the horse as the twin of his missing horse. He examined its teeth and other features carefully. However, instead of accusing the boys, he said that a suspicious man would believe his eyes, but his heart told him that

they belonged to an honest family. This meeting had a profound impact on the boys. John Byro's trust and faith in their family's honesty made them realise the gravity of their action. They felt ashamed and decided to return the horse the very next morning. The meeting acted as a turning point in the story.

XV. Uncle Khosrove is a comical and memorable character in the story. He was a huge man with a powerful head of black hair and the largest moustache in the San Joaquin Valley. He had a terrible temper and a unique way of dismissing every problem by saying, "It is no harm; pay no attention to it." Whether it was a house on fire or a missing horse, his reaction was the same. When John Byro complained about his missing horse, Uncle Khosrove roared at him in the same manner. His character adds humour to the story. His exaggerated reactions and short temper create comic situations. At the same time, his dismissive attitude towards problems reflects a philosophical approach to life's difficulties. He contributes both humour and depth to the narrative.

## **Chapter 2: The Address**

By Marga Minco

### **ANSWERS**

#### **Answers to Extracts**

##### **Extract 1:**

- (a) The speaker is Mrs S's daughter (the narrator).
- (b) The speaker came to meet Mrs Dorling.

© The woman looked at her searchingly and kept her hand on the door as if to prevent her from entering. She said she did not know her.

(d) She had come specially on the train to claim her mother's belongings.

##### **Extract 2:**

- (a) 'She' refers to Mrs Dorling.



(b) The mother had asked her to keep her things safe.

© The address was Number 46, Marconi Street.

(d) The mother entrusted her things to Mrs Dorling for safekeeping during the war.

Extract 3:

(a) The narrator was in Mrs Dorling's house, looking at her mother's belongings.

(b) The things depressed her because they brought back painful memories of her mother and the past.

© She decided she must not show her feelings and had to appear normal.

(d) She is experiencing a conflict between the desire to see familiar things and the pain those memories bring.

Extract 4:

(a) Mrs Dorling is speaking.

(b) She was about to open a drawer.

© She had some old cutlery and a few other things belonging to the narrator's mother.

(d) It reveals that Mrs Dorling had carefully kept many of the mother's belongings and was using them as her own.

Extract 5:

(a) The narrator resolved to forget the address.

(b) She found it easy because of all the things she had to forget, the address would be the easiest.

© She decided to leave all the things of the past behind and had no further interest in them.

(d) This resolution signifies her decision to move on from the painful past and not cling to material memories.

Answers to Short Answer Questions

1. Mrs Dorling was an old acquaintance of the narrator's mother. She lived at Number 46, Marconi Street. The mother had entrusted her with many of her household belongings for safekeeping during the war.

2. The narrator went to Mrs Dorling's house to reclaim her mother's belongings which had been left there for safekeeping during the war. She wanted to see and possibly take back the familiar things associated with her mother.
3. Mrs Dorling behaved coldly and unwelcomingly. She did not recognise the narrator at first and kept her hand on the door to prevent her from entering. She seemed reluctant to let the narrator inside.
4. The narrator noticed that many of her mother's belongings – the silver cutlery, the antique plates, the woollen table-cloth – were being used by Mrs Dorling as her own. The room was full of familiar objects that now seemed out of place.
5. During the war, when the narrator's family was in danger, the mother entrusted her valuable belongings to Mrs Dorling for safekeeping. She hoped that the things would remain safe until the family could return and reclaim them.
6. The narrator felt a mixture of emotions. She wanted to see the familiar things again, but at the same time they depressed her. The objects brought back painful memories of her mother and the past that she had lost.
7. The green woollen cardigan was being worn by Mrs Dorling when the narrator first visited her. It was one of the items that had belonged to the narrator's mother. Seeing it on Mrs Dorling made the narrator recognise her.
8. The narrator decided not to take the things back because they no longer brought her any joy. Instead of providing comfort, the objects only reminded her of the painful past. She felt it was better to leave them behind and move on.
9. The story shows how war destroys not only lives but also relationships and trust. Families are displaced, belongings are lost or taken, and people who were once acquaintances can become strangers or even opportunistic. The emotional scars of war linger long after it ends.
10. The narrator resolved to forget the address because she realised that clinging to the past and material possessions would only bring her more pain. She decided that the past was better left behind so that she could live in the present without being haunted by memories.

#### Answers to Long Answer Questions

1. The narrator's first visit to Mrs Dorling's house was disappointing and uncomfortable. When she arrived and asked if Mrs Dorling still knew her, the woman looked at her searchingly and denied recognising her. She kept her hand on the door as if to prevent the narrator from entering. The narrator

introduced herself as Mrs S's daughter and mentioned that she had come specially on the train. Mrs Dorling remained cold and unwelcoming. She did not invite the narrator inside. The narrator noticed that Mrs Dorling was wearing her mother's green woollen cardigan, which confirmed that she was the right person. The visit left the narrator feeling rejected and uncertain about the belongings her mother had left behind.

2. The story explores the human tendency to hold on to material possessions and the emotional value people attach to them. The narrator's mother carefully entrusted her belongings to Mrs Dorling, hoping to reclaim them later. Mrs Dorling, on the other hand, had started using those things as her own and was reluctant to return them. When the narrator finally saw the familiar objects, she realised that they no longer held the same meaning. The things that once belonged to a loving home now seemed lifeless and depressing. The story suggests that material possessions cannot replace the people and relationships we lose. Clinging to objects of the past only prolongs the pain of loss.
3. The story powerfully highlights the theme of loss – both personal and material – caused by war. The narrator has lost her mother and her home. The belongings that once filled her house with warmth now exist in a stranger's home and bring only depression. The futility of material possessions is shown through the narrator's final decision. She realises that the objects have lost their emotional value because the people associated with them are gone. Keeping or reclaiming them would not bring back the past. By choosing to forget the address and leave the things behind, the narrator accepts the permanence of her loss and chooses to move forward rather than remain trapped in memories of what once was.
4. The narrator and Mrs Dorling represent two contrasting attitudes. The narrator is sensitive, emotional and still connected to the memory of her mother. She visits Mrs Dorling hoping to reclaim a part of her past. However, when she sees the objects, she feels depressed rather than comforted. Mrs Dorling, on the other hand, is practical, cold and somewhat opportunistic. She has taken the belongings and is using them without any sense of guilt. She does not welcome the narrator and shows no empathy. The narrator's decision to leave the things behind shows emotional maturity and the ability to let go. Mrs Dorling's attitude reveals a lack of sensitivity and a materialistic

outlook. Their contrast highlights different ways people deal with loss and memory.

5. The narrator ultimately decided to forget the address because she realised that the belongings no longer brought her any joy or comfort. Instead of connecting her to her mother in a positive way, the objects only reminded her of the painful past and the losses she had suffered. She understood that the true value of those things lay in the life and love that once surrounded them – not in the objects themselves. By resolving to forget the address and leave everything behind, she chose to free herself from the burden of the past. This decision signifies emotional healing and acceptance. It shows that sometimes the best way to honour the past is to let go of it and live fully in the present.

## **TOPIC: MOTHER'S DAY (BY J.B. PRIESTLEY)**

### **SECTION A: EXTRACT-BASED QUESTIONS**

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#### **Extract I**

**Q1.** thoughtless

**Q2.** Mrs. Pearson's defense of her family reveals her soft-heartedness, extreme meekness, and misplaced affection. She rationalizes her family's selfishness and lack of consideration, demonstrating her passive submissiveness and reluctance to confront their mistreatment.

**Q3.** The fundamental flaw in Mrs. Pearson's character is her over-pampering nature, coupled with a lack of assertiveness and a fear of causing conflict or displeasing her family members.

**Q4.** Mrs. Pearson possesses a soft, overly forgiving, and timid attitude, making excuses for her family's exploitation. In contrast, Mrs. Fitzgerald is practical, assertive, firm, and uncompromising. This reveals Mrs. Pearson's submissive, self-sacrificing nature against Mrs. Fitzgerald's strong-willed, pragmatic, and decisive character.

#### **Extract II**

**Q1.** Doris demands that her mother iron her yellow silk dress because she is going out that evening with Charlie Spence and expects her domestic needs to be served automatically.

**Q2.** cool

**Q3.** Mrs. Pearson critiques Doris's social life by mocking her choice of companion, Charlie Spence, calling him buck-toothed and half-witted, and questioning why Doris wastes her time with someone like him.

**Q4.** Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

### **Extract III**

**Q1.** Cyril expects to find tea ready and his clothes mended/kept out for him when he arrives home.

**Q2.** Union

**Q3.** Mrs. Pearson points out that her family members operate strictly on self-interest and trade union rules for their own work hours, yet expect her to work unlimited, unappreciated domestic hours without refusal.

**Q4.** a) Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

### **Extract IV**

**Q1.** It can be inferred that George expects strict adherence to unvarying domestic routines and demands that his wife cater continuously to his comforts, even if he does not plan to utilize them.

**Q2.** The playwright uses irony in George's reaction because George complains bitterly about no tea being prepared, despite having just stated he does not want any. This highlights his pompous, self-centered entitlement and desire for domestic control.

**Q3.** George says he will not need tea because he has a special snooker match night at the club and will be having a bit of supper there.

**Q4.** a) Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

### **Extract V**

**Q1.** ice shows

**Q2.** b) Sternly

**Q3.** It can be inferred that Cyril is already privately aware that people at the club laugh at his father and call him 'Pompey-Ompey Pearson', confirming that Mrs. Pearson's claim is accurate.

**Q4.** a) Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

## **SECTION B: SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS (40–50 Words)**

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**Q1.** The fortune-telling session serves as the dramatic catalyst of the play. It establishes the stark contrast between the two women and introduces the central conflict—Mrs. Pearson's exploitation by her family—setting up the necessity for Mrs. Fitzgerald's magic-assisted intervention.

**Q2.** George Pearson is upset because he is accustomed to unconditional deference, obedience, and endless service from his wife. Her sudden blunt honesty, refusal to make tea, and mocking exposure of his foolish reputation at the club shatter his fragile ego and domestic authority.

**Q3.** Mrs. Fitzgerald recognizes that gentle advice and passive requests have failed for years due to Mrs. Pearson's weak-willed nature. She realizes that only a severe psychological shock and direct confrontation can break the family's ingrained habits of entitlement and selfishness.

**Q4.** Before the exchange, Doris treats her mother like an unpaid servant. She enters demanding her dress be ironed, ordering tea, and expecting immediate service without showing any gratitude, greeting, or concern for her mother's feelings or well-being.

**Q5.** Cyril embodies patriarchal domestic expectations where women perform unpaid, continuous household labor. He views his mother's role as purely functional—preparing meals, mending clothes, and keeping things ready—while viewing his own eight-hour workday as the only real labor deserving rest.

**Q6.** Long-term, the family dynamic will become balanced and respectful. The family members, having learned a hard lesson about taking Mrs. Pearson for granted, will treat her with consideration, assist in household work, and recognize her dignity as an equal family member.

**Q7.** While Mrs. Fitzgerald's intervention crosses personal boundaries by deceitfully inhabiting another person's identity, it is ethically justifiable under a utilitarian framework. Her drastic action frees Mrs. Pearson from emotional exploitation and restores systemic health and fairness to the household.

**Q8.** Mrs. Pearson's family takes her for granted because she has over-pampered them and silently accepted all domestic burdens without resistance. Her lack of self-assertion and continuous indulgence conditioned them to view her sacrifices as entitlement rather than acts of love.

**Q9.** Mrs. Fitzgerald uses strong-arm tactics because passive advice would never be put into practice by the timid Mrs. Pearson. Direct, forceful conflict is the only language the spoiled family understands to disrupt their comfortable routines and force immediate self-reflection.

**Q10.** The underlying cause of Mrs. Pearson's initial hesitation is her deep, misplaced affection for her family, combined with her fear of creating unpleasantness or conflict. Her soft nature makes her prioritize their momentary comfort over her own self-respect.

## **SECTION C: LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS (120–150 Words)**

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**Q1.** J.B. Priestley's 'Mother's Day' uses comic exaggeration, such as the magical body-swapping element, to expose the grim, realistic truth of household labor exploitation. In post-war middle-class families, the homemaker's relentless labor was taken for granted, unpaid, and unacknowledged. Priestley critiques this through the characters of George, Cyril, and Doris. Doris demands her yellow silk be ironed for a date, treated as a given service. Cyril expects his tea and clothes to be kept ready without a word of appreciation, operating on an eight-hour workday concept while expecting his mother to work a sixteen-hour shift seven days a week. George expects his home to function like an automated hotel catering to his whims, even when he dines at his club. Through witty satire, Priestley underscores that domestic labor deserves equal status, fixed working hours, and genuine appreciation, exposing the deep-seated patriarchy disguised as normal family routines.

**Q2.** Despite contemporary advancements in gender equality and women's professional emancipation, the emotional and domestic exploitation of mothers remains a persistent reality. Modern women often bear a 'second shift'—managing professional careers while remaining primary caregivers and managers of domestic chores. Priestley's depiction of Mrs. Pearson mirrors the invisible mental burden borne by modern mothers, who are frequently expected to maintain household harmony at the cost of personal well-being. Modern family members often take maternal sacrifices as natural duty rather than voluntary care. Priestley's resolution—establishing clear boundaries, asserting self-worth, and demanding structural balance—remains profoundly relevant today. Until family members share domestic labor and actively validate a mother's individuality and autonomy, the fundamental message of 'Mother's Day' continues to be a vital sociological lesson for contemporary society.

**Q3.** Mrs. Fitzgerald's radical intervention of body-swapping and psychological shock therapy may initially appear ethically questionable as it involves deception, emotional aggression, and violation of personal boundaries. However, evaluated through its outcome and necessity, her tactic is fully justifiable. Gentle persuasion and passive advice had failed repeatedly because Mrs. Pearson lacked the fortitude to enforce boundaries, and her family was too entrenched in their selfish habits. Systemic and deeply ingrained domestic abuse requires radical intervention to disrupt the comfortable status quo. By using shock tactics—smoking, drinking, refusal of service, and direct mockery—Mrs. Fitzgerald forced George, Cyril, and Doris to experience immediate vulnerability and re-evaluate their behavior. The ethical justification lies in the restorative justice achieved: the intervention liberated Mrs. Pearson from domestic servitude, re-established household equilibrium, and taught her family genuine respect and empathy.

**Q4.** Both 'Mother's Day' and A.J. Cronin's 'Birth' celebrate selfless caregiving, yet they illuminate a stark contrast in societal recognition between public professional labor and private domestic labor. In 'Birth', Dr. Andrew Manson performs heroic, life-affirming duties through medical expertise, saving both mother and newborn. His labor is visible, professional, and accorded high societal value, dignity, and professional fulfillment. Conversely, Mrs. Pearson's caregiving in 'Mother's Day' consists of continuous, unglamorous domestic sacrifices—cooking, mending, cleaning, and emotional support. Because her work occurs in the private domestic sphere, it is rendered invisible, uncompensated, and treated with contempt or entitlement by her own family. Priestley highlights how society undervalues private female labor compared to public male professions. Both texts affirm that true devotion demands immense resilience, but

'Mother's Day' specifically calls out society's structural hypocrisy in failing to accord domestic caregiving the respect it inherently deserves.

**Q5.** A true 'home' is defined not by physical shelter, bricks, or material possessions, but by mutual respect, emotional belonging, and reciprocal affection. In 'Mother's Day', Annie Pearson's domestic sphere functions merely as an unappreciative hotel where family members enter to demand services, drop demands, and exit for personal leisure. Lacking emotional warmth and respect, it ceases to be a genuine home for Mrs. Pearson until boundaries are re-established. In contrast, Marga Minco's 'The Address' explores the physical loss of home and possessions following the Holocaust. When the narrator visits 46, Marconi Street, the sight of her mother's physical belongings in an alien, unfeeling environment brings no comfort, prompting her to leave them behind. Both texts converge on the idea that material items and structural walls are hollow without human dignity and emotional connections. A authentic home is created only where individuals are valued, respected, and emotionally bound.

## BIRTH

### Answer key

#### Extract 1

1. It suggests that Andrew had been feeling dissatisfied and believed he had not yet achieved anything truly meaningful as a doctor.
2. B. Professional fulfilment through service
3. The experience is deeply emotional and personal. Speaking to God reflects his overwhelming gratitude and relief.
4. He values saving human life more than personal recognition or material success.

#### Extract 2

1. He intensified his efforts and continued the resuscitation with even greater determination.
2. The phrase highlights how unexpected and extraordinary the recovery seemed. It reflects Andrew's emotional state and the near-impossible nature of the baby's survival.
3. B. They appeared unsuccessful for a long time.
4. C. Hopelessness → Hope → Revival



### Extract 3

1. She feared that Andrew would leave the case during the waiting period and return later, leaving them without medical help.
2. B. He is patient, reassuring, and committed to his duty.
3. Andrew treats his patients with kindness, respect, and emotional understanding, which helps build trust.
4. It highlights the family's anxiety and uncertainty. It also emphasizes Andrew's compassion and reliability as a doctor.

### Extract 4

1. The two men are Andrew Manson and Joe Morgan
2. B. Joe was emotionally anxious and frightened.
3. The statement reflects Joe's deep trust, hope, and confidence in Andrew's medical skills despite the critical situation.
4. Joe was emotionally distressed and anxious about his wife's condition. He chose to wait outside while Andrew attended to the delivery.

### Extract 5

1. Andrew was torn between his logical, doubting mind and his deep emotions for Christine. This emotional conflict left him confused and unhappy.
2. Emotional confusion and disappointment
3. He was lost in deep thought about his relationship with Christine and was emotionally disturbed.
4. The contrast shows that while Andrew is absorbed in his personal emotional problems, the old woman is focused on the childbirth and the safety of her family. It highlights the difference in their immediate concerns.

### SAQs

1. Although the narrator describes the moment as "a miracle," the baby's survival is mainly the result of Andrew's persistence, medical knowledge, and refusal to give up. The "miracle" is possible because of his continuous efforts.

2. The story highlights values that remain essential today: professional ethics, resilience, empathy, critical thinking, and the importance of not giving up in difficult situations. These qualities are valuable not only for doctors but for everyone.

3.If Andrew had stopped trying, the baby would probably not have survived, and the story would have conveyed hopelessness instead of perseverance. His continued efforts prove that determination and patience are essential in difficult situations. The story encourages readers never to abandon hope or responsibility before exhausting every possibility.

4. The old woman knew there would be a long waiting period before the baby was born. She feared Andrew might leave and return later, leaving the family without medical support.

5.Confidence helps people remain calm and make wise decisions under pressure. Andrew gradually gains confidence through his persistent efforts to save the baby. His belief in his medical knowledge prevents him from giving up, leading to a successful outcome and strengthening his professional identity.

6.Andrew was called because Joe Morgan's wife, Susan, had been in labour for nearly twenty hours. Her condition required immediate medical attention, and the family depended on Andrew to ensure the safe delivery of the baby.

7.Andrew calls his achievement "something real" because saving a life gives him genuine satisfaction and purpose. The author suggests that true success comes from selfless service and dedication to one's duty. The statement highlights that meaningful achievements are measured by the positive difference we make in the lives of others, not by personal recognition or material rewards.

8. Professionally, Andrew saves the newborn through his medical skill and determination. Personally, the experience strengthens his confidence, overcomes his self-doubt, and helps him discover the true meaning of being a doctor.

9. Andrew was upset because of a misunderstanding with Christine, the woman he loved. The conflict between his emotions and rational thinking left him confused, disappointed, and unable to find peace.

10. The title *The Birth* is significant in both a literal and symbolic sense. Literally, it refers to the birth and successful revival of Joe Morgan's baby. Symbolically, it marks the birth of Andrew Manson as a confident, compassionate, and responsible doctor. The experience transforms him from a young man filled with self-doubt into a medical professional who understands the true meaning of dedication, perseverance, and service to humanity.

## LAQs

1. Andrew Manson emerges as a dedicated and compassionate doctor through his unwavering commitment to his patients. Although he is emotionally disturbed because of his strained relationship with Christine, he does not allow his personal problems to interfere with his professional duties. He attends Susan Morgan's difficult delivery with complete sincerity. When the newborn appears lifeless, everyone loses hope, but Andrew remains calm and determined. Using his medical knowledge and presence of mind, he continues his efforts to revive the baby despite repeated failures. His refusal to give up finally brings success when the baby starts breathing. Andrew's patience, courage, empathy, and sense of responsibility prove that he is not only a skilled doctor but also a compassionate human being who values every human life.

2. The title *The Birth* has both literal and symbolic significance. Literally, it refers to the birth and revival of Joe Morgan's baby. Symbolically, it marks the birth of Andrew Manson's confidence and professional identity. At the beginning of the story, Andrew is emotionally disturbed and uncertain about his future. He lacks confidence because he is a young doctor with limited practical experience. However, the challenging situation at the Morgan household transforms him. His successful efforts to revive the seemingly lifeless baby make him realise the true value of perseverance, skill, and dedication. The experience gives him confidence in his medical abilities and strengthens his commitment to his profession. Thus, the story celebrates both the birth of a child and the emergence of a confident, compassionate doctor.

3. The story clearly shows that hope alone cannot produce results; it must be supported by action. Andrew never loses hope that the baby can be saved, but he also works continuously to revive the child. He applies his medical knowledge, performs artificial respiration, and patiently continues his efforts despite repeated failures. His determination finally brings the baby back to life. If Andrew had merely hoped without acting, the outcome would have been different. Thus, the story teaches that hope becomes meaningful only when combined with hard work, perseverance, and responsible action.

4. Andrew's statement reveals that he believes true success lies in serving humanity rather than achieving fame or wealth. Before this incident, he was uncertain about his abilities and disappointed by his personal life. Saving the newborn gives him a deep sense of fulfilment because he realises that his profession has the power to protect and restore life. The word "real" suggests that he now understands the true purpose of being a doctor. His achievement is not measured by recognition but by the positive impact he has made on

another person's life. The statement marks a turning point in Andrew's life, as it strengthens his confidence and inspires him to dedicate himself to his profession with greater commitment.

5. Andrew's inner conflict plays an important role in the story. He is emotionally disturbed because of his disagreement with Christine, and the conflict between his heart and his mind leaves him confused and unhappy. At first, he is unable to concentrate fully because his thoughts keep returning to his personal problems. However, when faced with a medical emergency, Andrew sets aside his emotions and focuses entirely on his professional responsibility. His determination to save the newborn gives him a new purpose. The successful revival of the baby restores his confidence and helps him overcome his self-doubt. The story shows that personal difficulties should not prevent individuals from fulfilling their responsibilities. Andrew's emotional growth makes him a stronger and more mature doctor.

## **Chapter 5: The Tale of Melon City**

### **Answer Key**

#### **Answers to Extracts**

##### **Extract 1:**

- (c) Vikram Seth is the poet of this poem.
- (d) The king is described as just and placid.
  - © The king proclaimed that an arch should be constructed.
  - (d) The purpose of the arch was to edify (instruct and improve) the spectators.

##### **Extract 2:**

- (c) When the king rode under the arch, he lost his crown.
- (d) The king lost his crown because the arch was built too low.
  - © The king frowned and said that it was a disgrace.
  - (d) This incident sets in motion a chain of events involving blame-shifting and eventually the king's own hanging.

Extract 3:

- (c) The chief of builders was brought before the king.
- (d) The chief of builders claimed that it was the workmen's fault.
  - © The king, being just, called a halt to the proceedings and said the chief of builders must get justice.
  - (d) The king's quality of being just (and placid) is mentioned.

Extract 4:

- (c) The king summoned the architect.
- (d) The king wanted the architect to be punished because he held him responsible for the poorly designed arch.
  - © The king's decision shows that his idea of justice is based on finding someone to blame and punish, rather than understanding the real cause.
  - (d) No, the king's justice is not truly fair because he keeps shifting the blame without proper investigation and eventually becomes a victim of his own flawed system.

Extract 5:

- (d) The ministers advised the king to consider what the people were saying.
- (e) The people wanted a hanging, come what may.
  - © The final outcome was that the king himself was hanged.
- (f) The irony is that the 'just' king, who ordered hangings for others, ends up being hanged himself due to the same process of 'justice'.

Answers to Short Answer Questions

1. The city was ruled by a just and placid king. He was peaceful by nature and believed in delivering justice. However, his idea of justice was rigid and ultimately led to absurd consequences.
2. The arch was constructed on the king's orders. It was meant to span the major thoroughfare and to edify the spectators – that is, to instruct and improve the people who saw it.

3. When the king rode under the arch to inspect it, the arch was too low and knocked off his crown. The king was angry and considered it a disgrace. He ordered that the person responsible should be punished.
4. The blame kept shifting from one person to another. The chief of builders blamed the workmen. The workmen blamed the bricks. The bricks led to the architect being blamed. The architect cleverly pointed out that the king himself had made certain changes to the plans.
5. The wisest man in the country was summoned when the situation became complicated and no one seemed clearly guilty. Being old and wise, he was expected to give a fair judgement. He said that the arch itself was the culprit and should be hanged.
6. After the king's hanging, the ministers decided that the next person to pass through the city gate would choose the new king. This was done to follow a customary practice and to satisfy the people.
7. An idiot happened to pass through the city gate. When asked who should be the next king, he replied 'a melon' because that was his standard answer to every question. The ministers followed his words and crowned a melon as the king.
8. The irony in the title is that a city ends up being ruled by a melon. The 'just' process of selecting a king leads to an absurd outcome. The title highlights the ridiculousness of the entire system of justice and governance in the city.
9. The poem satirises the concept of rigid and mindless justice, the tendency to shift blame, the influence of public opinion on decisions, and the absurdity of systems where form is valued over substance. It also mocks the idea of passive acceptance by the people.
10. The message of the poem is that blind adherence to rules and the desire to please the public at any cost can lead to absurd and tragic outcomes. True justice requires wisdom and understanding, not just the mechanical application of procedures. Peace-loving people may accept any ruler as long as they are left alone.

Answers to Long Answer Questions

1. The sequence of events begins when the king orders an arch to be built. When he rides under it, the arch is too low and knocks off his crown. Enraged, he orders the chief of builders to be hanged. The chief blames the workmen, who blame the bricks, leading to the architect being summoned. The architect cleverly implicates the king himself. The king then consults the wisest man, who declares the arch guilty. Since the arch cannot be hanged practically, and the crowd demands a hanging, the noose is set up. It fits the king, so he is hanged. This reflects that the idea of justice in the poem is mechanical and absurd. The king, who prided himself on being just, becomes a victim of the same flawed system. Justice without wisdom leads to chaos and self-destruction.
2. 'The Tale of Melon City' is a sharp satire on the process of fair trial and judgement. The king considers himself just, yet his method of delivering justice is deeply flawed. Instead of investigating the real cause of the problem, he keeps shifting the blame from one person to another based on whoever is brought before him. Each accused person cleverly passes the responsibility to someone else. The involvement of the wisest man, who absurdly blames the arch, further mocks the idea of wise counsel. Finally, public opinion overrides reason, and the king himself is hanged simply because the noose fits him. The poem exposes how legal and judicial processes can become farcical when they prioritise form over substance and when those in power lack true wisdom.
3. The poem uses humour and irony extensively to convey its message. The very idea of a king being hanged because an arch was built too low is humorous in its absurdity. The continuous shifting of blame – from the chief of builders to the workmen, to the architect, and finally back to the king – creates a comic chain of events. The irony is sharp: the 'just and placid' king becomes the victim of his own justice system. The crowning of a melon as king is the height of absurd humour. Through these devices, Vikram Seth criticises blind justice, the influence of the mob, and the passive nature of people who accept any ruler as long as they are left in peace. The light-hearted tone makes the serious message more impactful.
4. The crowning of a melon as king is highly significant. After the king's hanging, the ministers decide that the next person to pass the city gate will choose the new ruler. An idiot passes by and, as is his habit, answers 'a melon' to the question. The ministers crown a melon. This shows that the people of the city are passive and indifferent to who rules them. They are happy as long as they are left alone and the city functions peacefully. The melon-king does not interfere in their lives, and the people rejoice. The episode satirises the attitude of citizens who prefer a non-interfering, even absurd, ruler over one who might demand accountability or bring change. It reflects a society that values peace and non-interference above good governance.
5. Yes, the poem remains highly relevant in today's world. The tendency to shift blame rather than take responsibility is common in politics and administration even today. Leaders often pass the responsibility for failures onto subordinates or previous governments. The influence

of public opinion and the desire to satisfy the crowd, even at the cost of reason, can still be seen in populist decisions. The poem also comments on the passive nature of citizens who accept whatever system is in place as long as their daily lives are not disturbed. The absurdity of rigid procedures that ignore common sense is a critique that applies to bureaucratic systems worldwide. Vikram Seth's satire continues to hold a mirror to the flaws in governance and public attitude.