

CBSE Class 10 English Question Paper 2025 with Solutions Set 2-6-3

Time Allowed :3 hours	Maximum Marks :80	Total Questions :38
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Section A

Reading skills

1. Read the following text:

(1) Creativity is our most precious resource and the most inexhaustible one. As anyone who has ever spent any time with children knows, every single human being is born creative; every human being is innately endowed with the ability to combine data and perceptions, materials and ideas and devise new ways of thinking and doing. What fosters creativity? More than anything else: the presence of other creative people, contrary to that creativity is the province of great individual geniuses. In fact, creativity is a social process. Our biggest creative breakthrough comes when people learn from, compete with, and collaborate with other people.

(2) Cities are centres of creativity. With their diverse populations, dense social networks, and public spaces, people can meet spontaneously and spark or catalyse new ideas. With their infrastructure for finance, organization, and trade, they allow the idea to swiftly reach its destination.

(3) A study tracking the decline of unconventional thinking ability as children age states that while 98 percent of 3 to 5-year-olds exhibited creative thinking, this dwindled to 10 percent among 13 to 15-year-olds and a mere 2 percent among 25-year-olds. Thus, adulthood witnesses the erosion of innate creativity. There is a variance in creative vitality across cities. Although all cities harbour creative individuals by default, some are saturated with leaders, institutions, and people that inhibit creativity.

(4) Creativity (or the lack of it) follows the same general contours of the great socio-economic divide – our rising inequality – that plagues us. According to estimates, roughly one-third of people are able to do work which engages our creative faculties to some extent, whether as artists, musicians, writers, techies, innovators, entrepreneurs, doctors, lawyers, journalists, or educators. That leaves a group termed “the other 66 percent”, in which their creativity is subjugated, ignored, or wasted.

(5) Creativity itself is not in danger. It is flourishing all around us – in science and technology, arts and culture, in our rapidly revitalizing cities. But we still have a long way to go if we want to build a truly creative society that supports and rewards creativity for each one of us.

(Created for academic usage / 410 words)

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above:

1(i). The central idea of this passage is that:

- (A) social interaction is necessary to nurture creativity.
- (B) creativity and ideas are gradually declining in all societies.
- (C) the creativity divide is widening in societies in line with socioeconomic trends.
- (D) more people should work in jobs that engage their creative faculties.

Correct Answer: (A) social interaction is necessary to nurture creativity.

Solution: The passage emphasizes the role of social interaction in fostering creativity. It highlights that creativity is nurtured through collaboration and learning from others, which is essential for creative breakthroughs.

 Quick Tip

Social interaction plays a key role in nurturing creativity by enabling individuals to learn, collaborate, and compete with others.

1(ii). Select the option that is true for the assertion and reason given below:

Assertion: Creativity is the province of great individual genius is not true.

Reason: Creativity is a social process. (A) Both the Assertion and Reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.

(B) Both the Assertion and Reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.

(C) The Assertion is true, but the Reason is false.

(D) The Assertion is false, but the Reason is true.

Correct Answer: (D) The Assertion is false, but the Reason is true.

Solution: The passage clearly explains that creativity is not limited to individual geniuses but is a social process. Creativity flourishes through interaction and collaboration, making the assertion false and the reason true.

 Quick Tip

Creativity thrives when people collaborate and interact with each other, as opposed to being the product of individual genius alone.

1(iii). Identify the word in paragraph 1 which means something that cannot be used up or depleted.

Solution: The word "inexhaustible" in paragraph 1 refers to something that cannot be used up or depleted. This word is used to describe creativity as a resource that is abundant and can never run out.

 Quick Tip

"Inexhaustible" refers to something that has no end or limit and cannot be depleted, much like creativity in this context.

1(iv). What important trends does a study tracking the decline in creative thinking ability in children reveal? Answer in about 40 words.

Solution: The study reveals that the ability for creative thinking sharply declines as children age. While 98% of children aged 3 to 5 exhibit creative thinking, only 2% of 25-year-olds show similar abilities. This trend highlights a significant erosion of creativity over time.

 Quick Tip


Creativity declines as children grow older, with the most significant drop occurring between early childhood and adulthood.

1(v). Read the given prompt and select the correct option in the brackets to fill in the blank:

Our biggest creative breakthrough comes when people learn from, compete with, and collaborate with other people.

Creativity is thus a __ (economic, industrial, social) process.

Solution: The word "social" fits the blank, as the passage emphasizes the role of social interaction in fostering creativity. It explains that creativity thrives through learning, competing, and collaborating with others.

 Quick Tip

Creativity is primarily a social process, relying on collaboration and interaction among individuals.

1(vi). According to the passage, where does creativity thrive apart from arts and culture?

Solution: Apart from arts and culture, creativity also thrives in science and technology. The passage highlights that creativity flourishes across various fields, contributing to advancements in diverse areas like innovation, medicine, and technology.

 Quick Tip

Creativity is not limited to arts and culture but extends to science, technology, and other fields.

1(vii). Complete the following with a suitable reason:

About thirty-three percent of citizens engage their creative faculties in tasks that use

Solution: The correct answer is "creative work." The passage explains that about thirty-three percent of people engage in work that stimulates their creativity, such as in the fields of arts, technology, and innovation.

 Quick Tip

About one-third of people are involved in creative work, where they utilize their creative faculties to perform tasks in various fields like art, science, and business.

1(viii). In the context of the last paragraph, explain how does the passage view the future of creativity in society.

Solution: The passage expresses optimism for the future of creativity. It highlights that while creativity is flourishing in various fields, there is still much work to be done to create a society that fully supports and rewards creativity for everyone, ensuring that it reaches its full potential.

 Quick Tip

Although creativity is flourishing, continued efforts are needed to create a society that encourages and rewards creativity in all individuals.

2. Read the following text:

(1) In today’s contemporary online shopping landscape, a perfect storm of choice engulfs consumers. Research consistently indicates that individuals presented with a limited selection tend to make more confident and efficient decisions compared to those confronted with overwhelming choices.

(2) Consequently, assisting consumers in navigating the vast expanse of options available online has evolved into a thriving industry on a global scale. Many brands and retailers now employ marketing strategies revolving around the aspects given in the table below:

Aspect	Description
Industry	Helping consumers decide what to buy online.
Marketing tools	Selecting, differentiation, and discovery.
Data utilization	Digital advertising, cataloging people by gender, income level, personal interests, and more.
Retail Assistance	Algorithms, influencers, and ad tech.
Challenge	Choice fatigue due to the overwhelming volume of consumer choices.
Solution	Lifestyle influencers on Instagram providing aspirational content and product recommendations.

Table 1: Summary of Industry Trends

(3) For a relatively new breed of consumer product startups, a different approach emerges entirely. Rather than attempting to navigate the existing sea of products, these companies claim to revolutionize conventional consumer choices. Some brands offer limited, functional, mid-priced products, instilling customer confidence and breaking the cycle of consumerism.

(4) The global product abundance could be more equitable. Unfortunately, creators often prioritize wealthier consumers.

(5) For startups promising accessible simplicity, their very structure may eventually lead them back to an overwhelming array of choices: Most of these companies rely on hundreds of millions of dollars in venture capital funding, and their inventors typically expect rapid growth. (Adapted for academic usage)

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above:

2(i). What does the use of the phrase 'a perfect storm of choice', by the writer, in paragraph 1, tell us about their feelings?

- (A) The consumers are elated
- (B) The consumers are confused
- (C) The consumers are confident
- (D) The consumers are decisive

Correct Answer: (B) The consumers are confused.

Solution: The phrase "a perfect storm of choice" suggests that consumers are overwhelmed or confused by the abundance of choices, which makes it harder for them to make confident decisions.

 Quick Tip

When a phrase like "perfect storm" is used, it usually indicates a situation filled with chaos or confusion, as seen here with consumers facing too many choices.

2(ii). Identify the word in paragraph 2 that indicates that the writer feels assisting consumers has become a profitable industry.

Solution: The word "thriving" in paragraph 2 suggests that assisting consumers in making decisions has become a successful and profitable industry.

 Quick Tip

The word "thriving" often indicates something that is growing successfully, often in a profitable way, as seen in the context of the consumer assistance industry.

2(iii). Based on the aspects mentioned in the table, mention the marketing approach that is primarily concerned with understanding consumers based on various factors.

Solution: The marketing approach that focuses on understanding consumers based on various factors is "Data utilization." This involves categorizing people by gender, income, personal interests, and more to better tailor marketing strategies.

 Quick Tip

Data utilization helps businesses personalize their marketing efforts by understanding consumers through demographics and personal interests.

2(iv). Complete the following analogy approximately, based on your understanding of the table:

Cataloging people by gender, income level, personal interests, etc., is to Data utilization as Algorithms, influencers, and ad tech are to .

Solution: The correct answer is "Retail Assistance." Just as cataloging people is part of data utilization, algorithms, influencers, and ad tech are part of retail assistance to help consumers make decisions.

 Quick Tip

Understanding consumer data helps with targeting, while retail assistance tools like algorithms and influencers guide consumer decisions.

2(v). Which aspect in the table pertains to presenting consumers with carefully selected choices to assist decision-making?

- (A) Challenge
- (B) Data utilization
- (C) Marketing trends
- (D) Retail assistance

Correct Answer: (D) Retail assistance.

Solution: The "Retail assistance" aspect involves using algorithms, influencers, and ad tech to help present consumers with curated options, which helps them make decisions more easily.


 Quick Tip

Retail assistance focuses on guiding consumers through carefully selected options, helping them make more confident decisions.

2(vi). Based on your understanding, fill the blank with the appropriate option from those given in brackets:

The solution to combat choice fatigue is to __ (follow / employ / recommend) lifestyle influencers on Instagram who provide self-improving content and product references.

Solution: The correct answer is "employ." The passage suggests that lifestyle influencers are employed to assist consumers by providing aspirational content and product recommendations, helping them combat choice fatigue.

 Quick Tip

"Employ" is the correct verb, as it aligns with the action of using influencers strategically to assist consumers in making decisions.

2(vii). Complete the sentence suitably:

The different approach to revolutionize consumer choices is to ___.

Solution: The correct answer is "offer limited, functional, mid-priced products." The passage describes a new approach where startups focus on offering simple, limited products that help break the cycle of consumerism.

 Quick Tip

Some startups focus on simplifying consumer choices by offering fewer, more functional options, which instills confidence and breaks excessive consumerism.

2(viii). Complete the following with a suitable reason:

The writer believes that the global product abundance cannot be equitable because ...

Solution: The writer believes that the global product abundance cannot be equitable because creators often prioritize wealthier consumers, leading to an unequal distribution of products.

 Quick Tip

The imbalance in global product distribution is due to the focus on wealthier consumers, leaving others with fewer choices.

2(ix). In the context of the last paragraph, though the startups promise simplicity of access, what are the drawbacks of such a structure?

Solution: The drawback is that these startups, while promising simplicity, often rely on significant venture capital funding and expect rapid growth. This structure may eventually lead them back to offering an overwhelming range of choices, which contradicts their original promise of simplicity.

 Quick Tip

Startups that aim to simplify consumer choices may inadvertently fall back into overwhelming consumers with choices due to the pressures of rapid growth and large investments.

Section – B (20 Marks)

Grammar and Creative Writing Skills

3. Complete any ten of twelve of the following tasks, as directed:

3(i). Read the given sentence from a story. Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket:

As I entered the room, the first thing that struck me as odd was the candle still _____ (burn) on the table. The curtains had been drawn back, and the room was bright.

Solution: The correct form of the word is "burning." The sentence would read: "The first thing that struck me as odd was the candle still burning on the table."

 Quick Tip

Use the present participle ("burning") after "still" to indicate an ongoing action at the time described.

3(ii). Identify and correct the error in the sentence taken from the article – ‘The Hidden Health Risks of Bread Consumption’:

Health experts worldwide are concerning about the surge in health problems.

Error Correction

Solution: The correct sentence should be: "Health experts worldwide are concerned about the surge in health problems."

The error is in the use of "are concerning," which should be "are concerned" to correctly express the passive sense of being worried.

 Quick Tip

Use "concerned" as the adjective to express worry, rather than "concerning," which is used as a present participle or gerund.

3(iii). Complete the given statement by filling the blank with the correct option:

A mask is used to hide the identity __ a person.

- (A) of
- (B) for
- (C) being
- (D) at

Correct Answer: (A) of

Solution: The correct preposition is "of." The sentence would read: "A mask is used to hide the identity of a person."

 Quick Tip

When referring to the identity belonging to someone, use "of" to show possession.

3(iv). Read the following conversation:

Student: Hello. I've come to ask about the English courses you run for international students.

Administrator: Are you a student at the university?

Select the correct option to complete the reporting of the above dialogue:

The student greeted and mentioned that she __ to inquire about the English courses for international students. The administrator enquired if she was a student at the university.

- (A) has come
- (B) has came
- (C) had came
- (D) had come

Correct Answer: (D) had come

Solution: The correct answer is "had come." When reporting past actions or speech in the past tense, we use the past perfect ("had come") for an action completed before the reporting action.

 Quick Tip

Use the past perfect tense ("had come") to report actions that happened before the reporting action in indirect speech.

3(v). Identify the error and supply the correct word in the format given below:

"Embrace change as an opportunity for personal growth and allowed it to improve your life."

Error Correction

Solution: The correct sentence should be: "Embrace change as an opportunity for personal growth and allow it to improve your life."

The error is in the use of "allowed," which should be "allow" to match the imperative tone of the sentence.

 Quick Tip

In imperative sentences, use the base form of the verb (allow) instead of the past tense (allowed).

3(vi). Report the dialogue between a shopkeeper and Ramesh:

Shopkeeper: What book do you want?

Ramesh: A reference book for Physics which I can use for my project work.

The shopkeeper asked Ramesh which book did he want. Ramesh replied that ...

Solution: The correct reported speech is: "The shopkeeper asked Ramesh which book he wanted. Ramesh replied that he wanted a reference book for Physics which he could use for his project work."

 Quick Tip

When converting a question to reported speech, change the word order and use the correct verb tense for indirect speech.

3(vii). Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete an article published in a science magazine:

There are many inventions of science -- (those / which / such) have benefitted human beings in many ways.

Correct Answer: (which)

Solution: The correct option is "which." The sentence would read: "There are many inventions of science which have benefitted human beings in many ways."

 Quick Tip

"Which" is used to introduce relative clauses that provide additional information about a noun.

3(viii). Complete the statement made by a career counsellor by filling the blank with the correct option:

In our country, __ universities offer a range of courses. That's why foreign students prefer Indian universities.

- (A) more
- (B) each
- (C) many
- (D) few

Correct Answer: (C) many

Solution: The correct option is "many." The sentence would read: "In our country, many universities offer a range of courses."

 Quick Tip

"Many" is used when referring to a large number of something, which fits in this context about universities.

3(ix). Report the dialogue between the residents and the city planner by completing the sentence:

City planner: "The new park is a result of several months of research and planning."

Residents: "We don't know who is more excited – we or our children!"

The city planner said that the new park *of several months of research and planning. The residents expressed their excitement,*

Solution: The correct reported speech is: "The city planner said that the new park was a result of several months of research and planning. The residents expressed their excitement, stating that they were unsure who was more excited – they or their children."

 Quick Tip

In reported speech, change the verb tense appropriately and adjust the sentence structure to reflect indirect communication.

3(x). Choose the correct statement: (A) He swore that he had not stolen the bag.

(B) He swore that he had not stolen the bag.

(C) He was swearing that he had not stolen the bag.

(D) He swears that he had not stolen the bag.

Correct Answer: (B) He swore that he had not stolen the bag.

Solution: The correct sentence is: "He swore that he had not stolen the bag." "Swore" is the correct past tense form of "swear."

 Quick Tip

The past tense of "swear" is "swore," not "swear." Use the correct verb form for past actions.

3(xi). The following is an excerpt from a travelogue. There is an error in the statement. Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction:
Kanyakumari is popular for its beautiful beaches, unique Vivekananda Rock Memorial, and stunning sunrise and sunset view.

Error Correction

Solution: The correct sentence should be: "Kanyakumari is popular for its beautiful beaches, unique Vivekananda Rock Memorial, and stunning sunrise and sunset views."

The error is the use of "view," which should be plural "views" to match "sunrise and sunset."

 Quick Tip

When referring to multiple instances or events, use the plural form, such as "views" instead of "view."

3(xii). Fill in the blanks by choosing the correct options to conclude the report:
The report concludes that _____ learners have _____ knowledge of astrophysics.

(A) very few / some

(B) some / every

(C) every / no

(D) no / a lot of

Correct Answer: (A) very few / some

Solution: The sentence suggests that there are only a small number of learners who have any knowledge of astrophysics, and it emphasizes that these learners have only a limited amount of knowledge. Hence, the correct options are "very few" learners and "some" knowledge.

Thus, the report concludes that a very small number of learners (very few) have a limited understanding (some) of astrophysics.

 Quick Tip

In fill-in-the-blank questions, carefully analyze the context to determine the most fitting option for completing the statement.

Creative Writing Skills

4(a). You are Mahima/Manoj, a resident of B/20, Shastri Road, Mumbai, and a volunteer with 'Clean India'. As a concerned citizen, you have noticed that Marine Lines has become heavily polluted with plastic and garbage.

Write a letter to the editor of a prominent newspaper to raise awareness about this issue. In your letter, explain how environmental damage can be reduced through the help of NGOs, individuals, and government organizations.

Solution:

[Your Name]

B/20, Shastri Road

Mumbai
Date

The Editor
Newspaper Name

Newspaper Address

Subject: Urgent Action Needed to Address Pollution at Marine Lines

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to raise a critical issue that has been troubling me and many others in Mumbai. Marine Lines, a popular locality, is now severely polluted with plastic waste and garbage. The once-beautiful area has become an eyesore, and the accumulation of plastic waste poses serious environmental and health hazards. The situation calls for immediate intervention.

Marine Lines, being a major public space, requires collective effort from all stakeholders to tackle this pollution. NGOs, such as 'Clean India', are doing commendable work, but the support from individuals and government agencies is crucial. Individuals must take responsibility for proper waste disposal, avoid littering, and participate in community clean-up drives. NGOs can mobilize citizens and raise awareness about the dangers of pollution. However, the involvement of local government bodies is vital in providing adequate waste management systems and enforcing policies to curb plastic usage.

I urge the municipal authorities to take swift action to ensure regular cleaning, provide more waste disposal bins, and initiate campaigns to reduce plastic usage in the area. We need to work together to restore the beauty of Marine Lines and safeguard our environment for future generations.

Thank you for considering this issue. I hope your esteemed newspaper will take this matter seriously and encourage readers to contribute to the cleaner future of our city.

Yours sincerely,
Your Name

Volunteer, Clean India

 Quick Tip

In a letter to the editor, be clear and concise, providing specific details of the issue and proposing actionable solutions.

4(b). You are Sapna/Samar, a resident of A-411, Vivek Vihar, Delhi. Write a letter to the Commissioner of the Municipal Corporation to highlight your concern about the street lights in your area that have been out of order for a long time. Emphasize the safety issues and inconvenience caused by the lack of proper street lighting and request prompt repairs.

Solution:

[Your Name]

A-411, Vivek Vihar

Delhi
Date

The Commissioner
Municipal Corporation of Delhi
Address

Subject: Request for Immediate Repair of Street Lights in Vivek Vihar

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to bring to your attention a pressing issue that has been affecting the residents of Vivek Vihar, particularly in the area around A-411. For the past several weeks, the street lights in our locality have been out of order, and this has created significant safety and security concerns for the residents, especially during the evening and night hours.

The lack of street lighting has made the streets dark and unsafe, posing a risk of accidents and crime. It is essential for street lights to be functioning properly to ensure the safety of pedestrians, motorists, and the general public. The residents have been facing great inconvenience due to the constant darkness in the area, and many have expressed their concerns about walking or driving after dusk.

I kindly request you to take immediate action to repair the street lights in our locality. The timely restoration of proper lighting will not only improve safety but also enhance the overall well-being of the community.

I hope for your prompt intervention in this matter, and I look forward to seeing the issue resolved at the earliest.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,
Your Name

Resident, Vivek Vihar

 Quick Tip

When writing a letter of complaint, clearly state the problem, explain its impact, and propose a solution or request action from the authorities.

5(a). The Pros and Cons of using the internet in everyday life are numerous. The internet is like a double-edged sword. Based on the information provided in the table below, write an analytical paragraph on the topic ‘Advantages and Disadvantages of the Internet’ in not less than 120 words.

Pros and Cons of Internet

Pros	Cons
(1) Connectivity (2) Communication speed and versatile working (3) Learning Re-defined (4) Transfer of Data	(1) Data Security (2) Social Isolation (3) Addiction towards it (4) Plagiarism and copyright

Solution: The internet is a powerful tool that has transformed the way we live, work, and learn. On the positive side, it has revolutionized communication by providing instant connectivity, enhancing work flexibility, and enabling the transfer of data at high speeds. The internet also offers a vast array of learning resources that make education more accessible. However, these benefits come with significant drawbacks. Data security concerns have grown due to increased online transactions, while social isolation has become a serious issue as people spend more time online instead of engaging in face-to-face interactions. Additionally, internet addiction and the prevalence of plagiarism and copyright violations pose further risks. Thus, while the internet offers many advantages, it is important to navigate these issues responsibly.

 Quick Tip

While analyzing the advantages and disadvantages of any technology, consider both its positive impacts and potential harmful effects to offer a balanced perspective.

5(b). Read the following details:

Students today are becoming victims of cybercrime and cyberbullying in schools, which is affecting the mental health of students. Write an analytical paragraph in 120 words on the problems and causes of cybercrime.


-Misuse of Information Technology with the intention to trouble others.

-It comes in various forms – hacking, negative comments, spreading rumours.

Impact: Spoils image, self-doubt, results in insecurities and complexes.

Causes: Desire for power, seeking entertainment, escapism, inadequate regulations.

Solution: Cybercrime and cyberbullying are increasingly affecting students, causing long-term harm to their mental well-being. The misuse of information technology, with the intention of troubling others, manifests in various forms such as hacking, spreading false rumours, and posting negative comments. These actions result in the victim feeling insecure, experiencing self-doubt, and developing emotional complexes. The primary causes of cybercrime include a desire for power, the pursuit of entertainment, and a lack of proper regulations to govern online conduct. The absence of adequate oversight allows individuals to exploit others without fear of immediate consequences. This environment creates significant challenges for students, who may struggle to cope with the mental and emotional toll of such online abuse. Stronger regulations and awareness are needed to combat these issues.

 Quick Tip

To effectively address issues like cybercrime, it is crucial to understand the underlying causes and their long-term impact on individuals, particularly students.

Section – C (40 Marks)

Literature Textbook

6. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for any ONE of the two given:

(a) It is from these comrades in the struggle that I learned the true meaning of courage. Time and again, I have seen men and women risk and give up their lives for an idea. I have seen men and women stand up to attacks and torture without breaking, showing a strength and resilience that defies the imagination. I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear. (Nelson Mandela: A Long Walk to Freedom)

6a(i). What effect does the experience as described in the lines below have on the speaker?

Time and again, I have seen men and women risk their lives for an idea.

Solution: The speaker is profoundly moved and inspired by the bravery of those who risked their lives for a cause. The experience instills in the speaker a deep understanding of true courage, as it shows the power of commitment to an ideal, even at great personal cost.

Quick Tip

Repetition of "time and again" emphasizes the significance of witnessing this act of courage, reinforcing its emotional impact on the speaker.

6a(ii). Select one inference about the idea of courage from the given context:

I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it.

- (A) being fearless
- (B) absence of fear
- (C) feeding your fears
- (D) ability to overcome fear

Correct Answer: (D) ability to overcome fear

Solution: The correct answer is (D). The passage emphasizes that courage is not about being fearless, but about overcoming fear. The speaker suggests that true courage involves facing and conquering fear, not eliminating it.

Quick Tip

True courage is the strength to confront fear, not the absence of it.

6a(iii). Answer in about 40 words, with reference to the extract:

According to the author, what does true courage entail? How does this perspective differ from a common misconception about courage?

Solution: According to the author, true courage is the ability to conquer fear, not to be free from it. This challenges the misconception that courageous people do not feel fear; rather, they face and overcome their fear in difficult situations.

💡 Quick Tip

Courage involves overcoming fear, not its absence. This perspective shifts our understanding from heroism as fearlessness to heroism as resilience in the face of fear.

6a(iv). Fill in the blank with the correct phrase from the bracket in the context of the given extract:

Men stood up to torture showing strength and resilience that is ----- (impossible to understand / seeped in reality).

Correct Answer: impossible to understand

Solution: The correct phrase is "impossible to understand." The resilience shown by individuals in the face of torture is so extraordinary and beyond ordinary human experience that it is hard for the speaker to fully grasp or explain.

💡 Quick Tip

When describing an act of extreme courage or strength, terms like "impossible to understand" convey the idea of something beyond comprehension.

(b) There was a fifty rupee note between his fingers. My heart sank. I thought I had been discovered. "I made some money yesterday," he explained. "Now you'll be paid regularly." My spirits rose. But when I took the note, I saw it was still wet from the night's rain. "Today we'll start writing sentences," he said. He knew. But neither his lips nor his eyes showed anything. (The Thief's Story)

6(b)(i). In the context of the given extract, what was the feeling UNLIKELY to have been on seeing 'a fifty rupee note between his fingers'?

- (A) joyous
- (B) sad
- (C) unhappy
- (D) worried

Correct Answer: (A) joyous

Solution: In the extract, the narrator's initial feeling upon seeing the fifty rupee note was one of worry, as they feared being discovered. The term "my heart sank" suggests distress and anxiety, making "joyous" an unlikely emotion in this situation.

💡 Quick Tip

When analyzing emotions in a passage, look for clues in the language, like "heart sank" or "spirits rose," to understand the character's emotional state.

6(b)(ii). How does the prospect of being paid regularly affect the narrator's motivation and hope for the future? Answer in about 40 words.

Solution: The narrator's motivation and hope are greatly improved by the prospect of being

paid regularly. It gives them a sense of stability and security, making them feel more optimistic about their future and less anxious about their financial situation.


 Quick Tip

The idea of financial security or regular income can deeply affect a person's outlook on life, offering them hope and motivation to work harder.

6(b)(iii). Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket: The person spoken about did not let the narrator realize that his act of stealing was caught. It reflects the _____ (nobility / dishonesty) of his character.

Correct Answer: dishonesty


Solution: The person, despite knowing the narrator's act of stealing, chose not to expose them. This reflects dishonesty, as they hid the truth, rather than displaying noble behavior by confronting the narrator about the crime.

 Quick Tip

When filling in blanks, consider the moral qualities the sentence suggests about the character's behavior.

6(b)(iv). Compare the meanings of the expressions: "My heart sank" and "My spirits rose".

Solution: "My heart sank" expresses a feeling of deep disappointment or fear, typically associated with distress or anxiety. On the other hand, "My spirits rose" signifies a sense of hope, relief, or happiness, often following a positive change or reassurance.

 Quick Tip

Expressions like "heart sank" and "spirits rose" vividly describe contrasting emotional states. Analyzing such phrases helps you understand a character's psychological shift in the narrative.

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for any ONE of the two given:

(a) My head is full of whispers
which tomorrow will be silent.
Listen. The glass is breaking.
The trees are stumbling forward
into the night. Winds rush to meet them.
The moon is broken like a mirror,
its pieces flash now in the crown
of the tallest oak. (The Trees)

7a(i). The metaphorical expression used by the poet to describe the movement of the trees is ...

Solution: The metaphorical expression used by the poet to describe the movement of the trees is "the trees are stumbling forward into the night." This portrays the trees' movement as unsteady and almost human-like, conveying a sense of confusion or struggle.

 Quick Tip

When the poet uses words like "stumbling," it suggests a struggle or difficulty, personifying nature to evoke deeper emotion.

7a(ii). Based on the tone, discuss how Adrienne Rich presents the conflict between man and nature.

Solution: In this passage, Adrienne Rich presents a tone of conflict between man and nature by depicting the forces of nature as powerful, chaotic, and uncontrollable. The broken moon and stumbling trees evoke an image of nature being disturbed or disrupted, possibly by human actions. The personification of nature creates a sense of tension, as nature seems to struggle against something, possibly human intervention.

 Quick Tip

The conflict between man and nature is often conveyed through the imagery of destruction, chaos, and personification in poetry, illustrating nature's resistance or vulnerability.

7a(iii). What is the mood or atmosphere conveyed by the imagery in the passage?

- (A) Calm and tranquil
- (B) Eerie and foreboding
- (C) Joyful and celebratory
- (D) Melancholic and traumatic

Correct Answer: (B) Eerie and foreboding

Solution: The imagery in the passage conveys a mood that is eerie and foreboding. The broken moon, the stumbling trees, and the winds rushing create a sense of danger and unease, suggesting something ominous about to unfold.

 Quick Tip

Words like "broken," "stumbling," and "rushing" contribute to a tense, unsettling atmosphere, making the mood eerie and foreboding.

7a(iv). Why would the whispers be silent tomorrow?

Solution: The whispers would be silent tomorrow because they are a metaphor for the poet's thoughts or inner turmoil, which will fade away or be resolved as time passes. This could also suggest that the impending chaos or conflict will settle, leaving no more room for the whispers, or that the natural world will fall into a quiet, still state after the disturbances.

 Quick Tip

Metaphors like "whispers" often represent thoughts or emotions that can dissipate over time, signaling resolution or the end of a conflict.

(b) (I am Rapunzel, I have not care;
life in a tower is tranquil and rare;
I'll certainly never let down my bright hair!)
Stop that sulking at once, Amanda!
You're always so moody, Amanda!
Anyone would think that I nagged at you,
Amanda! (Amanda)

7(b)(i). Complete the following suitably: Amanda sulked and became moody because ...

Solution: Amanda sulked and became moody because she felt frustrated or misunderstood, possibly due to being reprimanded or criticized. The poem portrays her as being sensitive to the situation, which makes her emotional and sulky.

 Quick Tip

When completing statements, pay attention to the emotions and context given in the poem to identify the underlying reasons for a character's behavior.

7(b)(ii). What does the girl constantly yearn for? What do you infer about Amanda from the poem?

Solution: The girl constantly yearns for freedom and independence, as suggested by her reference to Rapunzel's life in the tower, which symbolizes isolation. From the poem, we infer that Amanda is a young girl who is often unhappy and moody, seeking escape from her current circumstances.

 Quick Tip

Pay attention to symbols like "Rapunzel" in the poem to better understand the deeper desires or frustrations of the character.

7(b)(iii). What kind of picture is painted by the poet through the line, "life in a tower is tranquil and rare"?

Solution: The line "life in a tower is tranquil and rare" paints a picture of solitude and peace, suggesting a life away from the chaos of the outside world. It implies a life that is quiet, undisturbed, and perhaps idealized by those seeking relief from the demands of daily life.

 Quick Tip

When interpreting poetic lines, consider both literal and symbolic meanings to understand the picture the poet is creating.

7(b)(iv). The tone of the speaker in the exclamation "Stop that sulking at once, Amanda!" is:

1. uncertain
2. aggressive
3. dominating
4. meek
5. moody

- (A) 1, 2, 4
(B) 2 and 3
(C) 2, 4, and 5
(D) 4 and 5

Correct Answer: (B) 2 and 3

Solution: The speaker's tone in "Stop that sulking at once, Amanda!" is both aggressive and dominating, as the command is stern and forceful. The speaker is clearly trying to assert control over Amanda's behavior, showing frustration with her moodiness.

 Quick Tip

When analyzing tone, consider the choice of words, punctuation, and the context of the speaker's relationship with the listener.

8. Answer any four of the following five questions in about 40-50 words:

8(i). Motivation influences our willingness to overcome challenges and eventually succeed. How does the young Seagull in 'Two Stories About Flying' demonstrate this? Discuss.

Solution: In "Two Stories About Flying," the young seagull shows motivation when it overcomes its fear of flying. Initially, it is afraid to fly and remains hungry, but its desire to survive and the encouragement from its parents push it to face its fear. Eventually, it takes flight, symbolizing the triumph of motivation over fear.

 Quick Tip

The story illustrates how motivation can drive individuals to overcome fear and achieve success, even in the face of challenges.

8(ii). "The Fog comes on little feet." Highlight the significance of the metaphor employed in the poem 'Fog' by Carl Sandburg.


Solution: In Carl Sandburg's poem "Fog," the metaphor "The Fog comes on little feet" signifies the gentle, quiet, and subtle way in which fog moves into a place. The use of "little feet" suggests how the fog silently and gradually envelops its surroundings, creating a mysterious and calm atmosphere.

 Quick Tip

The metaphor of "little feet" highlights the gentle and unnoticed nature of fog, emphasizing its soft arrival and effect on the environment.

8(iii). Mijbil the Otter is portrayed as an intelligent, friendly, and playful animal who thrives on affection. Discuss how these traits are depicted in the story 'Mijbil the Otter' by Gavin Maxwell.

Solution: In "Mijbil the Otter," Gavin Maxwell depicts Mijbil as an affectionate, intelligent, and playful creature. Mijbil quickly learns how to interact with his environment, displays curiosity, and seeks affection from Maxwell. His playful behavior, like swimming and playing with objects, shows his friendly nature, while his intelligence is revealed through his ability to adapt to new situations.

 Quick Tip

The traits of intelligence, playfulness, and affection are revealed through Mijbil's interactions and adaptation to his environment.

8(iv). Comment on the significance of the title 'The Proposal' in the play. Provide two examples from the play to support your explanation.

Solution: The title "The Proposal" in the play reflects the central theme of marriage proposals and the humorous events that follow. The title is ironic because the actual proposal process is filled with miscommunication and misunderstandings. For example, Lomov's nervousness and Chubukov's interference complicate the proposal, highlighting the chaos surrounding the simple act of proposing.

 Quick Tip

In "The Proposal," the title is ironic, as the actual proposal is not straightforward but filled with humor and absurdity.

8(v). How does the poet present the concept of beauty in the poem 'For Anne Gregory'?

Solution: In "For Anne Gregory," the poet presents beauty as subjective and fleeting. The speaker reflects on how physical beauty fades with age, and true beauty comes from inner

qualities. Through the speaker's conversation with Anne, the poem suggests that genuine beauty is not defined by external appearance but by character and inner qualities.


 Quick Tip

The poem emphasizes that beauty is more than physical appearance, encouraging a deeper understanding of beauty as an internal quality.

9. Answer any two out of the three questions, in about 40-50 words:

9(i). Mrs. Hall's suspicion of Griffin for the theft grew stronger, and she confronted him. Describe Griffin's reaction.

Solution: Griffin reacted angrily and defensively when Mrs. Hall confronted him about the theft. He tried to dismiss her suspicions and acted aggressively, attempting to avoid the topic. His reaction only made Mrs. Hall more suspicious, highlighting his guilty and evasive behavior.

 Quick Tip

When analyzing a character's reaction, pay attention to their tone, body language, and the way they respond to accusations to understand their emotional state.

9(ii). Why is Matilda unhappy with her life?

Solution: Matilda is unhappy with her life because she feels trapped in a mundane and dull existence. She believes she deserves a more exciting and glamorous life, but her circumstances, including her unappreciative family, make her feel unfulfilled and dissatisfied.

 Quick Tip

When analyzing a character's unhappiness, focus on the external factors, like family or social position, and how they shape the character's perception of their life.

9(iii). Explain why and how Horace Danby was mistakenly accused and caught for a theft he did not commit in the story 'A Question of Trust'.


Solution: Horace Danby was mistakenly accused and caught for the theft because of his previous criminal history, which made him a prime suspect. He had also been in the area at the time of the theft. However, it was a woman who had cleverly framed him by tricking him into providing the key to the safe.

 Quick Tip

When examining misunderstandings or mistaken accusations in a story, consider the role of circumstantial evidence and how characters can be wrongly implicated.

10(a). Examine the role of Nature in the poems 'The Dust of Snow' and 'Fog'.

Solution: In both "The Dust of Snow" and "Fog," nature plays a significant role in influencing the mood and actions of the characters. In "The Dust of Snow," the falling snow brings a sense of peace and renewal, turning a potentially gloomy day into a positive one. The snowflakes symbolize the healing power of nature, reminding the poet of life's small, beautiful moments. In "Fog," the fog acts as a metaphor for obscurity, both literally and figuratively. It envelops the landscape, creating a sense of mystery and stillness. Through these poems, nature is portrayed as a force that can uplift, obscure, or reflect emotional states, showing its deep connection to human experience.

 Quick Tip

When analyzing poems, examine how natural elements symbolize or influence the characters' emotions, moods, or transformations.

10(b). The journeys of Anne Frank and Valli teach us the vital lesson that optimism and self-assurance empower women to rise above circumstances and overcome obstacles. Examine the similarities.

Solution: Both Anne Frank and Valli exhibit remarkable optimism and self-assurance despite their challenging circumstances. Anne, during her time in hiding, maintains hope for a better future, finding solace in writing and her inner strength. Valli, on the other hand, is a young girl with a fierce determination to experience life independently. In "Madam Rides the Bus," she shows courage by embarking on a journey alone, defying societal expectations. Both characters, through their optimism and resilience, empower themselves to navigate and rise above the obstacles in their lives. Their journeys remind us of the strength of the human spirit, especially in the face of adversity.

 Quick Tip

When comparing characters, focus on their personal growth, challenges faced, and how their attitudes or actions reflect broader themes like optimism and self-assurance.

11(a). Ebright's journey of becoming a leading scientist conveys a strong message to us. His inquisitiveness and competency drove him to become a great scientist. In what manner does Richard Ebright's perseverance, dedication, and inquisitiveness inspire you to pursue your dreams? (The Making of a Scientist)

Solution: Richard Ebright's journey is a testament to the power of perseverance, dedication, and an inquisitive mind. His relentless pursuit of knowledge, starting from childhood, demonstrates that curiosity is the key to success. Ebright's ability to overcome failures, such as not winning the science fair initially, taught him resilience. His dedication to his research, coupled with an undying passion for learning, pushes me to chase my own dreams with a similar zeal. Just as Ebright turned his setbacks into stepping stones, his story inspires me to stay focused and never give up in the face of challenges.

 Quick Tip

Richard Ebright's life shows that curiosity, persistence, and hard work are the pillars of success in any field.

11(b). It is truly said that a good teacher is the light that helps one cross even the darkest of paths through honing their inherent qualities which enable them to shine bright and strong in life. In what ways does Sulekha's teacher epitomize this saying? How did she become the pillar of support and strength for Sulekha? (Bholi)

Solution: In "Bholi," Sulekha's teacher embodies the qualities of a great mentor who helps her discover her own potential. Sulekha, initially neglected and considered dull, is given the attention and encouragement she needs by her teacher. The teacher recognizes her inner strength and guides her with patience, helping Sulekha overcome her fears and self-doubt. By nurturing Sulekha's confidence, the teacher enables her to speak up at the wedding and ultimately take control of her destiny. This shows how a teacher's belief in their student can transform their life, making the teacher the guiding light through Sulekha's darkest moments.

 Quick Tip

A good teacher is not just an educator, but a mentor who sees the potential in their students and helps them grow into confident individuals.
