

CBSE Class 12 English Question Paper with Solutions Memory Based

Time Allowed :3 Hours	Maximum Marks :80	Total Questions :38
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General Instructions

1. Please check that this question paper contains 23 printed pages.
2. Q.P. Code given on the right hand side of the question paper should be written on the title page of the answer-book by the candidate.
3. Please check that this question paper contains 37 questions.
4. 15 minute time has been allotted to read this question paper. The question paper will be distributed at 10.15 a.m. From 10.15 a.m. to 10.30 a.m., the candidates will read the question paper only and will not write any answer on the answer-book during this period.

1. Why did the Mariner hold back the Wedding-Guest?

Correct Answer: The Ancient Mariner held back the Wedding-Guest because he was under a spiritual compulsion to tell his story as a form of penance for his sin of killing the Albatross.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

In Samuel Taylor Coleridge's poem "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner," the Mariner is cursed with an agonizing need to share his tale with specific individuals who need to hear his message of universal love and respect for all living things.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

The Mariner first stops the Wedding-Guest with his "skinny hand," but the guest is truly held captive by the Mariner's "glittering eye."

The Mariner has been granted a strange, supernatural power where his heart burns until he finds the right person to whom he must relate his story.

By holding back the Wedding-Guest, who represents a man focused on worldly pleasures and social celebrations, the Mariner forces him to confront a deeper, spiritual reality regarding the sanctity of life.

This act is part of the Mariner's eternal penance; he must travel from land to land and teach, by his own example, the love and reverence due to all God's creatures.

Step 4: Final Answer:

The Mariner held back the Wedding-Guest through the hypnotic power of his "glittering eye" to fulfill a divine penance, ensuring that his message of love for all creatures reached someone who needed a spiritual awakening.

💡 Quick Tip

Remember the contrast between the "Wedding-Guest" (representing social life) and the "Mariner" (representing spiritual isolation). The "glittering eye" is a key symbol of the Mariner's supernatural burden.

2. What was the symbolic significance of the Albatross's death?

Correct Answer: The death of the Albatross symbolizes a sin against God and Nature, representing the loss of innocence and the beginning of the Mariner's spiritual and physical suffering.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

In "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner," the Albatross is introduced as a "pious bird of good omen" that brought favorable winds and fog-clearing. Its senseless killing by the Mariner is the central conflict of the poem.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

The Albatross represents the purity of the natural world and is described as a "Christian soul." Its death is significant because it was an act of "wanton destruction"—a crime committed without provocation or reason, showing a lack of respect for God's creation.

Symbolically, the bird hanging around the Mariner's neck represents the physical and psychological burden of guilt.

It also signifies the breakdown of the connection between man and the divine; as soon as the bird is killed, the crew's luck turns, and they face deathly calms and supernatural horrors.

The Albatross only falls from his neck when the Mariner learns to pray and bless the water snakes, signaling the start of his redemption through the appreciation of nature.

Step 4: Final Answer: The Albatross's death signifies the betrayal of nature and the heavy burden of guilt that isolates the sinner from both humanity and the divine until he achieves spiritual repentance.

💡 Quick Tip

The phrase "an albatross around one's neck" has become a common English idiom for a heavy burden of guilt that prevents progress. Always link the bird's death to the theme of "Sin and Redemption."

3. Describe Helen's association with Alexander Graham Bell and its impact on her education.

Correct Answer: Helen Keller's association with Alexander Graham Bell was a pivotal turning point that led her to find her lifelong teacher, Anne Sullivan, and opened the doors to her intellectual world.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

In "The Story of My Life," Helen Keller recounts her journey toward education. Her meeting with Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, who was a specialist in the education of the deaf, provided the much-needed direction for her parents.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

Helen met Dr. Bell in 1886. She describes him as being very sympathetic, tender, and loving; he let her sit on his knee and play with his watch.

Dr. Bell understood the "darkness" Helen lived in and recommended that her father write to Mr. Anagnos, the director of the Perkins Institution for the Blind in Boston.

This recommendation was the direct cause of Anne Sullivan being sent to the Keller household. Beyond the initial introduction, Bell remained a mentor and friend to Helen, encouraging her curiosity and supporting her throughout her higher education, including her time at Radcliffe College.

His impact was profound because he treated her as an intellectual capable of learning, rather than just a disabled child.

Step 4: Final Answer:

Alexander Graham Bell acted as the catalyst for Helen's education by connecting her family with the Perkins Institution, leading to her meeting Anne Sullivan, and providing lifelong emotional and intellectual support.

 Quick Tip

Highlight the emotional connection between Helen and Bell. She felt he "understood her signs," which gave her the first spark of hope that communication was possible.

4. On what conditions was Antony allowed to speak at Caesar's funeral?

Correct Answer: Brutus allowed Mark Antony to speak under three strict conditions: he must not blame the conspirators, he must speak by their permission, and he must speak only after Brutus had finished his speech.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

In William Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar," after Caesar's assassination, Antony requests to speak at the funeral. Brutus, despite Cassius's warnings, agrees, thinking it will show the conspirators' fairness.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

Condition 1: Antony was forbidden from speaking any ill of the conspirators. He could praise Caesar but not criticize those who killed him.

Condition 2: He had to explicitly state in his speech that he was speaking only because the conspirators had graciously given him permission to do so.

Condition 3: The sequence of the speeches was fixed; Brutus would speak first to explain the reasons for the assassination, and Antony would follow in the same pulpit.

Brutus believed these conditions would neutralize any threat Antony posed. However, Antony used these constraints ironically, repeatedly calling the conspirators "honorable men" until the crowd realized the sarcasm and turned into a riotous mob.

Step 4: Final Answer:

The conditions were: 1. Do not blame the conspirators. 2. Acknowledge that permission was granted by the conspirators. 3. Speak only after Brutus's address is completed.

💡 Quick Tip

Notice the contrast between Brutus's idealism (trusting Antony's word) and Cassius's pragmatism (wanting to kill Antony or stop him from speaking). This decision is Brutus's fatal political mistake.

5. Write an email in about 50 words to your Principal requesting the early commencement of winter uniform usage. Include a valid reason.

Correct Answer:

To: principal@schoolname.com

Subject: Request for early commencement of winter uniform

Respected Sir/Madam,

Due to the sudden drop in temperature and increasing morning chills, many students are falling ill with seasonal colds. I request you to kindly allow the early commencement of winter uniform usage from next Monday to ensure student health and comfort.

Thank you.

Yours obediently,
Your Name

Class XII

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

An email to a school principal is a formal communication. It must have a clear subject line, a formal salutation, a concise body with a valid reason, and a polite closing.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

The email addresses the "Principal" as instructed.

The "valid reason" provided is the sudden change in weather (early onset of winter) and the health concerns (students catching cold).

The request is for "early commencement," meaning starting the use of winter clothes before the officially scheduled date.

The word count is kept near 50 words to satisfy the exam constraint.

Step 4: Final Answer:

The drafted email follows formal protocols and provides a logical health-based justification for the request.

Quick Tip

In email writing for exams, always include the 'To' and 'Subject' fields. Keep the body direct and avoid unnecessary flowery language.

6. Write an article on "Space Travel: Accessible Tourism or a Risky Adventure?" highlighting environmental impacts and safety concerns.

Correct Answer:

Space Travel: Accessible Tourism or a Risky Adventure?

By: [Your Name]

Space tourism, once a sci-fi dream, is now a reality for the ultra-rich. While companies like SpaceX and Blue Origin promise accessible travel to the stars, we must weigh the costs.

Safety remains a primary concern. Unlike commercial flights, space missions involve extreme G-forces and the risk of catastrophic failure during re-entry. Furthermore, the environmental impact is staggering. A single rocket launch emits massive amounts of carbon and soot into the upper atmosphere, depleting the ozone layer.

Additionally, "space junk" from frequent launches poses a threat to vital satellites. While space travel is an adventurous leap for humanity, it currently remains a high-risk, ecologically expensive luxury that requires stricter regulation.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

An article requires a title, a byline, and a structured body discussing the pros and cons or the specific points mentioned in the prompt (environmental impacts and safety).

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

The article opens by acknowledging the shift from science fiction to commercial reality.

It addresses the "Safety Concerns" by mentioning the physical risks to tourists and the technical risks of space flight.

It addresses the "Environmental Impact" by explaining the carbon footprint and ozone depletion caused by rocket propellants.

It concludes by questioning whether the "adventure" is worth the "risk" to our planet's environment.

Step 4: Final Answer:

The article provides a balanced view while specifically highlighting the negative externalities of space tourism as requested.

Quick Tip

Use strong vocabulary like "catastrophic," "staggering," and "depleting" to make your article more impactful. Ensure the byline is present right under the title.

7. What contradictory thoughts did the poet have upon seeing the snake?

Correct Answer: The poet, D.H. Lawrence, felt a conflict between his "voice of education," which urged him to kill the dangerous snake, and his "human instinct," which made him feel honored by the presence of a "king in exile."

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

In the poem "Snake," the poet encounters a Sicilian snake at his water trough. This encounter triggers an internal battle between societal conditioning and raw, natural appreciation.

Step 3: Detailed Explanation:

The "voice of education" (social conditioning) told him that since the snake was golden-brown, it was venomous and must be killed to prove his "manliness."

Contradictorily, his natural instinct and intuition made him feel a sense of hospitality and awe. He viewed the snake as a guest who had come to drink at his trough.

He felt "honored" that the snake sought his hospitality, even though he felt "afraid."

This conflict led to a moment of "perversity" where he eventually threw a log at the snake,

only to immediately regret it, feeling like he had committed a "paltry" and "mean" act against a noble creature of nature.

Step 4: Final Answer:

The poet's thoughts were torn between the learned necessity to kill the "venomous" creature and his deep-seated admiration for its majestic, "kingly" nature.

 Quick Tip

The word "perversity" in this poem refers to the poet's act of going against his own better judgment (which was to let the snake be) because of societal pressure.