

CBSE 12 English SET-2 (1/2/2) Question Paper with Solutions

Time Allowed :3 Hour	Maximum Marks :80	Total Questions :13
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General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. This question paper has 13 questions. All questions are compulsory.
2. This question paper contains three sections :
Section A : Reading Skills
Section B : Creative Writing Skills
Section C : Literature
3. Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
4. Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.
5. Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION A

Reading Skills

1. Read the following passage carefully:

(1) As a young adult, life can be stressful and overwhelming at times. Juggling among school, work, social life, and other responsibilities, it can be easy to feel alone and disconnected from the world around us. Dogs are the ultimate companions for anyone looking to alleviate stress and loneliness. We'll explore many reasons why dogs make the best companions for young adults.

(2) **Unconditional love:** Dogs are known for their loyalty and love for their owners, no matter what. They don't judge us, criticize us, or hold grudges against us. No matter how flawed or imperfect we may be, our dogs will always love us unconditionally. This kind of unwavering support and affection can be incredibly comforting for young adults struggling to find their place in the world.

(3) **Social connection:** Dogs are great ice-breakers and conversation starters. Whether you're walking them in the park, taking them to the dog beach, or simply hanging out at home, dogs have a way of bringing people together. For young adults who may feel isolated or disconnected from their peers, having a dog by their side can be a great way to connect with others and form new friendships.

(4) Increase physical activity: Dogs require regular exercise in order to stay healthy and happy. This means that young adults who own dogs are more likely to engage in physical activity themselves. Whether it's going for a run, playing frisbee, or simply taking a leisurely stroll, getting out with your dog can be a great way to boost your mood and energy levels.

(5) Emotional support: Dogs are also great emotional support animals for those struggling with mental health issues such as anxiety and depression. Their presence alone can provide a sense of calm and comfort, and their ability to sense their owner's emotions can be incredibly comforting. For young adults dealing with mental health challenges, having a dog as a companion can be a life-changing experience.

(6) Improve responsibility and self-care: Owning a dog also comes with a great deal of responsibility and self-care. Dogs require regular feeding, grooming, exercise, and attention, which can be a great way for young adults to develop a sense of responsibility and self-discipline. Additionally, having a dog as a companion can encourage young adults to take better care of themselves, such as making sure they get enough sleep, eat healthy, and engage in regular exercise.

(7) For all these reasons and more, dogs make fantastic companions for young adults. Whether you're looking for emotional support, social connection, increased physical activity, or simply someone to love and be loved by, a dog can provide all these things and more. So the next time you're feeling stressed or overwhelmed, consider finding a furry friend to take on the world with you.

Answer the following question, based on the above passage:

(i) What is the significance of owning a dog for a young adult who is striving for acceptance in society?

- (A)** It means increased physical activity.
- (B)** It builds a sense of responsibility.
- (C)** It helps young adults get more sleep.
- (D)** It is a source of unconditional love.

Correct Answer: (D) It is a source of unconditional love.

Solution:

Owning a dog provides unconditional love and unwavering support, as highlighted in paragraph 2 of the passage. This kind of love helps young adults feel accepted and secure, which is especially comforting for those struggling to find their place in society.

💡 Quick Tip

When identifying key themes in a question, focus on the emotional and social implications mentioned in the text.

(ii) A dog can encourage its owner to lead a healthier life by -----.

Complete the above sentence appropriately, in about 40 words, with a characteristic or description.

Solution: A dog encourages its owner to lead a healthier life by requiring regular exercise, such as daily walks, runs, or playful activities. This promotes physical activity, improves mood, and boosts energy levels, benefiting the owner's overall health and well-being.

 Quick Tip

Relate textual evidence to practical life examples when answering such descriptive questions.

(iii) Share evidence from the text, in approximately 40 words, to support the view that dogs provide a sense of calm and comfort to those struggling with mental health issues.

Solution: Dogs are excellent emotional support animals. Their presence alone offers a calming influence, and their ability to sense their owner's emotions provides additional comfort. For those struggling with anxiety or depression, having a dog can be a life-changing experience.

 Quick Tip

While answering such questions, highlight specific examples from the text to substantiate your response.

(iv) Explain in about 40 words the statement that 'dogs are great ice-breakers'.

Solution: Dogs help initiate conversations and bring people together. Walking a dog in the park or attending social events with them often leads to interactions with others, enabling young adults to connect with peers and form new friendships more easily.

 Quick Tip

Look for phrases that imply social interactions or relationships while tackling such questions.

(v) Which of the following activities help(s) young adults, owning a dog, build their sense of responsibility and self-discipline?

- (A) Walking the dog daily.
- (B) Feeding it regularly.
- (C) Engaging the services of a dog trainer.
- (D) Both (A) and (B).

Correct Answer: (D) Both (A) and (B).

Solution: Regularly walking and feeding the dog require consistent effort and routine, helping young adults develop a sense of responsibility and self-discipline. These activities ensure the dog's well-being while fostering personal growth in its owner.

 Quick Tip

Identify daily routines or habits mentioned in the text to understand their role in fostering personal growth.

(vi) What does this article aim to do?

- (A) Explain the benefits of owning a dog.
- (B) Provide advice on how to get a dog.
- (C) Discuss how to take proper care of a dog.
- (D) Describe the experiences of dog owners.

Correct Answer: (A) Explain the benefits of owning a dog.

Solution: The article primarily highlights the numerous advantages of owning a dog, such as emotional support, increased physical activity, and improved social connections, making it a valuable companion for young adults.

 Quick Tip

Pay attention to the overall message or theme of the article to identify its primary aim.

(vii) Select the option that is similar in meaning to the phrase ‘take on the world’.

- (A) Travel the world.
- (B) Accept a responsibility.
- (C) To be pessimistic.
- (D) Have a global outlook.

Correct Answer: (B) Accept a responsibility.

Solution: The phrase ‘take on the world’ implies being ready to face challenges and accept responsibilities with confidence and determination.

 Quick Tip

Understand figurative language in context to deduce the correct interpretation.

(viii) What does the underlined part in the sentence “consider finding a furry friend to take on the world with you” refer to?

Solution: The phrase “consider finding a furry friend” refers to getting a dog as a companion.

The article emphasizes how having a dog can help young adults face life's challenges with confidence and support, both emotionally and socially.

 Quick Tip

Focus on context clues around the underlined phrase to interpret its meaning.

(ix) **What is the tone of the article?**

- (A) Critical but supportive.
- (B) Indifferent and bored.
- (C) Positive and informative.
- (D) Humorous and casual.

Correct Answer: (C) Positive and informative.

Solution: The article adopts a positive and informative tone, highlighting the numerous benefits of owning a dog for young adults. It provides practical insights and encouragement, making it both engaging and educational.

 Quick Tip

Analyze the choice of words and overall structure to determine the tone of the article.

2. Read the following passage carefully:

(1) A recent survey conducted by an independent research firm sought to measure levels of happiness among youth aged 16 – 24 years in seven countries. The findings revealed some intriguing insights into what makes today's youth happiest, as well as which factors influence their overall well-being. In India, an overwhelming majority of the youth reported feeling satisfied with their lives, with 87% rating their overall happiness as 'high' or 'very high.' Financial security was identified as the primary source of happiness for 66%, followed by family support (89%), having a purpose in life (50%), and work or studies (40%). Unfortunately, 65% reported feeling stress related to academic performance or workload, while 25% reported feeling lonely. These figures point to a need for increased mental health support among India's youth.

(2) These surveys also revealed that family support is an important source of contentment for young people across countries. In Europe, 59% of respondents said that their families were a major source of happiness; in France this figure was 67%, and 63% in Germany. In North America, 64% rated family as an important factor for well-being in Canada, while 61% did so in the United States. Similarly, 89% of survey respondents in India named family support as a major contributor to their overall contentment level.

(3) It is clear that stress has a significant impact on the happiness of today's youth. The findings suggest that young people need better resources to manage their mental health and well-being. This may include access to counselling services, mindfulness activities, and support

groups to help them cope with challenging circumstances. It is also important to provide financial support so as to reduce some of the economic pressures.

(4) In India, 65% of youth surveyed reported feeling anxious about their academic performance or workload, while 25% felt lonely. These figures are especially significant given how important family support is for young people's overall contentment.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:

(i) What are the two findings that the survey mentioned in paragraph 1 reveals? Answer in about 40 words.

Solution: The survey reveals that 87% of Indian youth reported high or very high happiness levels, with financial security and family support being the key contributors. However, 65% experienced stress related to academics, and 25% felt lonely, highlighting mental health concerns.

 Quick Tip

Focus on percentages and their significance in the survey when summarizing key findings.

(ii) Explain in about 40 words the statement "It is also important to provide financial support so as to reduce some of the economic pressures."

Solution: Financial support can alleviate economic pressures faced by youth, enabling them to focus on personal development and mental well-being. It reduces stress linked to financial insecurity, allowing young people to pursue education, career goals, and a fulfilling life with fewer worries.

 Quick Tip

Highlight how financial assistance directly reduces stress and improves overall well-being.

(iii) Elaborate giving data, the statement "Stress has a significant impact on the happiness of today's youth."

Solution: Stress significantly impacts youth happiness, with 65% of Indian youth reporting stress related to academics or workload. Additionally, 25% of youth reported feeling lonely. These figures underscore the urgent need for better mental health resources and support systems.

💡 Quick Tip

Refer to the data provided in the passage to support your explanation of the impact of stress.

(iv) Which of the following factors, with reference to the given passage, does *not* play a substantial role in the well-being of Indian youth?

- (A) Family support and strong ties.
- (B) Social connection and technology.
- (C) Books and literature.
- (D) Economic stability.

Correct Answer: (C) Books and literature.

Solution: The passage highlights the importance of family support, social connection, and financial stability in the well-being of youth. However, it does not discuss the role of books and literature as a substantial factor in their happiness.

💡 Quick Tip

Use elimination to find the correct answer by checking which factors are not referenced in the passage.

(v) State whether *True* or *False*, with reference to the given passage:

It is not necessary to provide financial support to the youth as only academic performance plays an upper hand in deciding the stress level.

Correct Answer: False.

Solution: The passage emphasizes the importance of financial support to reduce economic pressures, which significantly contribute to stress among youth, in addition to academic performance challenges.

💡 Quick Tip

Identify keywords in the statement and refer to the passage to confirm its accuracy.

(vi) What are the top choices which are of maximum value to today's youth?

- I. Collectivism.
- II. Social media.
- III. Individualistic society.
- IV. Family ties.

- (A) I and II.
- (B) II and III.

- (C) I and IV.
(D) II and IV.

Correct Answer: (D) II and IV.

Solution: The passage highlights the value of family ties (IV) as a key source of happiness and support for youth. Social media (II) is not explicitly mentioned in the passage but aligns with modern youth preferences and global trends.

 Quick Tip

Refer to the specific values mentioned in the passage and choose options that align with those values.

(vii) The mental health of today's youth can be managed by resources like ----- and -----.

Solution: The mental health of today's youth can be managed by resources like counselling services and mindfulness activities. These resources help young people cope with stress and challenging circumstances effectively.

 Quick Tip

Focus on mental health-related support systems mentioned in the passage, like counselling or mindfulness.

(viii) Write the following sources that provide happiness to today's youth in descending order:

1. (a) Purposefulness
2. (b) Financial status
3. (c) Family support
4. (d) Stress

Correct Order: Family support ; Financial status ; Purposefulness ; Stress.

Solution: Based on the passage, family support (89%) ranks highest in providing happiness, followed by financial status (66%), and purposefulness (50%). Stress is a negative factor and does not contribute to happiness.

 Quick Tip

Use percentages or rankings from the passage to determine the correct order of the sources of happiness.

SECTION B

Creative Writing Skills

3: Attempt any one of the two, (a) or (b), in about 50 words.

(a) You are Nidhi/Nihal, student editor of your school magazine 'Jyoti.' Write a notice for the school notice board inviting short stories, poems, articles, etc. from students of all classes for the school magazine. Invent all necessary details.

OR

(b) You are Secretary of Vishal Housing Society, Prem Nagar. Draft a notice for the society notice board informing and inviting residents to the annual get-together to be held in the society compound, followed by dinner, on 28th March, 2024 from 7 pm onwards. Invent other details like contribution per family, guest charges, etc.

Solution:

(a) Notice for School Magazine

Notice
Jyoti - School Magazine
Date: [Insert Date Here]

Dear Students,

The editorial board of our school magazine, **Jyoti**, is inviting submissions of **short stories, poems, articles, and artwork** from students of all classes. This is your chance to showcase your talent and creativity! Please submit your entries to the undersigned by [**Insert Deadline Here**]. For more details, contact the undersigned. Let your creativity shine!

Nidhi/Nihal

(Student Editor)

Jyoti - School Magazine

Quick Tip
When writing a notice, include key details such as the purpose, date, time, and venue. Ensure the language is concise and clear to grab attention.

(b) Notice for Society Annual Get-Together

Notice
Vishal Housing Society, Prem Nagar
Date: [Insert Date Here]

Dear Residents,

We are delighted to invite you to the **Annual Get-Together** to be held in the society compound on **28th March, 2024, from 7 pm onwards**. The evening will include fun activities, music, and dinner. Contributions per family: **500**. Guest charges: **200 per guest**. Kindly confirm your participation by **[Insert Deadline Here]**. We look forward to an enjoyable evening with you all!

Secretary

Vishal Housing Society, Prem Nagar

💡 Quick Tip

Notices for libraries or academic institutions should include specific operational updates, dates, and new services in a structured format.

4: Attempt any one of the two, (a) or (b), in about 50 words.

(a) You are the President, Literary Society of Hans Public School, Railpura. Draft a formal invite to the renowned author Ms. Savita Patil, requesting her to conduct a workshop on 'Creative Writing' in your school. Invent necessary details. You are Anita/Amit.

OR

(b) You have received an invite on the wedding of your friend, Akshat. As Radhika/Rakesh, write a letter expressing your extreme happiness at the news and explaining your inability to attend the function. Convey your best wishes for the future to the couple.

Solution:

(a) Formal Invite to a Renowned Author

Hans Public School, Railpura

Literary Society

Date: [Insert Date Here]

To,

Ms. Savita Patil,
sert Address Here

Subject: Invitation to Conduct a Workshop on Creative Writing

Dear Ms. Savita Patil,

Greetings from Hans Public School! On behalf of the Literary Society, we are delighted to invite you to conduct a workshop on '**Creative Writing**' for our students. The proposed date for the workshop is **[Insert Date Here]**, and it will be held in the school auditorium from **10 AM to 1 PM**. We believe your guidance will inspire our students to enhance their writing skills. Kindly confirm your availability at the earliest.

We look forward to your positive response.

Warm regards,

Anita/Amit

President, Literary Society
Hans Public School, Railpura

 Quick Tip

In formal invitations, maintain a polite tone and ensure all details are clearly stated. Mention the purpose and request punctuality if required.

(b) Letter Expressing Happiness and Inability to Attend a Wedding

[Insert Address Here]

Date: [Insert Date Here]

To,
Akshat,
Insert Address Here
.

Subject: Best Wishes on Your Wedding

Dear Akshat,

I was overjoyed to receive the news of your wedding. Heartfelt congratulations to you and your partner on this special occasion! It is with great regret that I inform you of my inability to attend the function due to prior commitments.

Please accept my apologies and know that my best wishes are always with you both. May your life together be filled with love, happiness, and endless blessings. I hope to meet you soon and celebrate your happiness in person.

Warm regards,

Radhika/Rakesh

 Quick Tip

When accepting a formal invitation, express gratitude, confirm details, and show enthusiasm for the opportunity.

5: Attempt any one of the two, (a) or (b), in 120 – 150 words.

(a) You are Amit/Amita, a resident of Sujata Towers, Khelnagar. You came across the following advertisement and consider yourself an ideal candidate for the same. Apply for the job giving all details.

**UPKAR TRANSPORT LTD.
REQUIRES
HR MANAGER
WHOM DO WE NEED**

- Qualified – MBA
- Minimum – 5 years experience
- Willing to travel

SKILLS

- Excellent verbal and written skills
- Excellent interpersonal negotiation and conflict resolution skills
- Organizational ability

CONTACT: DIRECTOR, UPKAR TRANSPORT LTD.
76/A2 – PRABHA NAGAR, VAYUBAGH

Solution:

From: Amit/Amita
Sujata Towers,
Khelnagar.

To,
The Director,
Upkar Transport Ltd.,
76/A2, Prabha Nagar,
Vayubagh.

Subject: Application for the Post of HR Manager

Dear Sir/Madam,

This is with reference to your advertisement for the position of HR Manager in your esteemed organization. I, Amit/Amita, a qualified MBA graduate with over 5 years of experience in the field of human resources, wish to apply for this position.

I possess excellent verbal and written communication skills, strong organizational abilities, and proven expertise in interpersonal negotiation and conflict resolution. Additionally, I am willing to travel as per the requirements of the job. I have worked with [Insert Previous Organization Name] as an HR Manager for 5 years, where I successfully implemented policies that enhanced employee satisfaction and organizational efficiency. Enclosed herewith is my resume for your kind perusal. I assure you of my dedication and commitment to achieving the organizational goals if provided an opportunity. Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Amit/Amita

Contact: [Insert Phone Number]

Email: [Insert Email Address]

Quick Tip

Ensure that your job application highlights your qualifications, experience, and relevant skills. Keep the tone professional and concise.

b: The concept of working from home has been a significant shift in the world today. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily, sharing your views on this trend and examining both the benefits and the negative effects of remaining indoors for work. Use the given cues along with your own ideas to compose this letter. You are Rachit/Rachana, a concerned citizen.

- **Benefits:**

- Flexible hours
- Relief from travel hours

- **Disadvantages:**

- Isolation and loneliness
- Communication challenges
- Digital fatigue

- **Solutions:**

- Set daily routine
- Maintain clear boundaries
- Build social connections
- Practice self-care exercises

Solution:

Rachit/Rachana
sert Address Here
sert Date Here

To,
The Editor,
sert Newspaper Name Here
,
sert Address Here
.

Subject: Views on the Concept of Working from Home

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to share my thoughts on the trend of working from home, a significant shift that has redefined the modern workspace. While it has brought notable benefits, it also presents challenges that need to be addressed.

On the positive side, working from home allows for **flexible hours** and offers a welcome **relief from long travel hours**. These advantages improve work-life balance and contribute to better productivity. However, there are some drawbacks that cannot be overlooked. **Isolation and loneliness, communication challenges, and digital fatigue** have become common issues among remote workers. These problems affect both mental and physical well-being.

To address these challenges, individuals can adopt simple yet effective practices such as **setting a daily routine, maintaining clear boundaries** between work and personal life, **building social connections**, and **practicing self-care exercises**. Organizations should also provide support systems to ensure the well-being of their employees.

It is crucial to find a balance that allows us to harness the benefits of this work mode while mitigating its disadvantages. Thank you for providing a platform to discuss such an important topic.

Yours sincerely,
Rachit/Rachana
A Concerned Citizen

 Quick Tip

When writing a letter to the editor, maintain a formal tone and structure. Present balanced arguments with supporting points for a persuasive impact.

6: Attempt any one of the two, (a) or (b), in 120 – 150 words.

(a) With constant emphasis on improvement of road infrastructure, there is a widening of roads

to accommodate the growing traffic, yet leading to traffic congestion and incidents of road rage. Write an article to the editor of a local newspaper expressing your observations, concerns, and suggestions. Support your ideas with the outline cues given below. You are Sucheta/Sanjay.

Infrastructure Development

- **Benefits:** Wide roads, increased connectivity, smooth traffic
- **Disadvantages:** Air pollution, traffic jams, road rage
- **Suggestions:** Organized development, manned signals, meeting timelines

or

(b) A one-day cricket match was played by your school, Ratan Public School against Wali Public School. Ratan Public School won the match by 14 runs. Write a report on the same for your school magazine. You are Sonakshi/Sohan. You may use the given cues.

- **Finals of Inter-school tournament**
- **Ratan Public School as defending champion**
- **venue, day, date, time**
- **team detail**
- **highlights**
- **result - Chief Guest closing speech**

Solution:

(a) Article to the Editor

To Widen Roads or Not?

By Sucheta/Sanjay

Sir/Madam,

With the growing emphasis on infrastructure development, widening roads has been a priority to accommodate increasing traffic. While this has brought **wide roads, better connectivity, and smoother traffic**, it has also led to **air pollution, frequent traffic jams, and incidents of road rage**.

It is crucial to address these challenges through **organized development**, timely completion of projects, and **properly manned traffic signals**. Road infrastructure should cater to the needs of all commuters without creating unnecessary bottlenecks. Stringent measures for traffic management and pollution control should be implemented to ensure sustainable development. The authorities must strike a balance between growth and environmental impact to make the

roads safer and more efficient for everyone.

Yours sincerely,
Sucheta/Sanjay
sert Address Here

 Quick Tip

While writing an article, present clear arguments supported by relevant observations and logical solutions.

(b) Report on One-day Cricket Match

Ratan Public School Triumphs in the Finals!

By Sonakshi/Sohan

The much-awaited finals of the **Inter-school Cricket Tournament** took place on [Insert Date] at [Insert Venue], where **Ratan Public School** faced **Wali Public School**. As the defending champions, Ratan Public School showcased exemplary skills and determination throughout the match.

The match began at [Insert Time] with Wali Public School winning the toss and opting to field. Ratan Public School posted a challenging target of [Insert Score] runs, with standout performances by [Insert Player Name]. Despite a valiant effort by Wali Public School, they fell short by 14 runs.

The Chief Guest, [Insert Name], lauded both teams for their sportsmanship and presented the trophy to Ratan Public School. The event concluded with a motivating speech and loud cheers for the winners.

Ratan Public School's victory will remain a memorable moment in the tournament's history.

 Quick Tip

A sports report should include key details such as the match outcome, highlights, and notable performances to engage the readers.

SECTION C

Literature

7. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, (a) or (b):

(a) A thing of beauty is a joy forever

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

(A Thing of Beauty)

(i) Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract?

- A. The maturity of adulthood
- B. The glory of femininity
- C. Victim of male domination
- D. The superficial beauty

Answer: (C) Victim of male domination

Solution: The extract symbolizes Aunt Jennifer's oppression and the patriarchal constraints she faces in her marriage. It portrays her struggle as a victim of male domination.

 Quick Tip

Identify imagery and symbolism in poetry to uncover themes like oppression, resilience, and freedom.

(ii) State whether the following statement is **True** or **False**, with reference to the extract.

Aunt Jennifer is nervous and traumatized because of the constraints of her marriage.

Answer: True

Solution: The trembling of Aunt Jennifer's fingers and her inability to pull the needle signify her nervousness and the oppressive weight of societal and marital expectations.

 Quick Tip

Look for emotional cues in characters' actions to interpret underlying themes in literary works.

(iii) Complete the following sentence appropriately:

The fingers fluttering through her wool symbolize _____.

Answer: The fingers fluttering through her wool symbolize Aunt Jennifer's fear and lack of freedom.

Solution: The fingers fluttering through her wool symbolize Aunt Jennifer's fear, her nervousness, lack of confidence, and the constraints of her marriage.

💡 Quick Tip

Symbolism often reflects deeper emotions or societal conditions; identify such details for nuanced interpretations.

(iv) The use of the words “massive weight” creates a powerful image of _____.

Answer: The use of the words “massive weight” creates a powerful image of the oppressive burden of marriage and societal expectations.

Solution: The use of the words “massive weight” creates a powerful image of the male dominance and oppressive burden of marital and societal expectations.

💡 Quick Tip

Focus on descriptive words or phrases that create strong imagery to understand a poem’s emotional depth.

(v) Based on the rhyme scheme in lines 3 and 4, which word would rhyme with ‘band’ and ‘hand’?

A. stand

B. wind

C. bent

D. tent **Answer:** (A) stand

Solution: The rhyme scheme in the lines connects “band” and “hand” with “stand,” indicating thematic continuity and poetic symmetry.

💡 Quick Tip

Identifying rhyme schemes helps establish connections between lines and strengthens the understanding of poetic structure.

(vi) The heavy wedding ring is a source of:

A. joy.

B. freedom.

C. dignity.

D. burden. **Answer:** (D) burden.

Solution: The heavy wedding ring symbolizes the oppressive societal and marital constraints that weigh Aunt Jennifer down, stripping her of freedom and joy.

 Quick Tip

Look for metaphors and symbols in objects to decode hidden meanings in a literary context.

OR

(b) Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing
A flowery band to bind us to the earth,
Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,
Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways
Made for our searching :
(*A Thing of Beauty*)

(i) Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract?

- A. The beautiful things in nature
- B. Things that cause unhappiness
- C. The immortality of human beings
- D. The early morning fragrance of flowers

Answer: (A) The beautiful things in nature

Solution: The extract highlights the enduring and uplifting power of beauty in nature, which causes human overcome despair and stay connected to the earth despite challenges.

 Quick Tip

Focus on how natural beauty acts as a unifying force, inspiring joy and resilience in human lives.

(ii) State whether the given statement is **True** or **False**, with reference to the extract.
The paths we follow are often not worthy of our noble nature.

Answer: True

Solution: The extract suggests that human lives are often marred by despondence, unhealthy practices, and a lack of noble qualities. This creates a contrast with the uplifting influence of natural beauty.

 Quick Tip

Analyze the contrast in poetry to understand how positive elements counter negative themes.

(iii) Complete the following sentence appropriately:

We wreath for ourselves a flowery band every morrow because

Answer: It helps us to remain connected to the beauty of life despite challenges.

Solution: It helps us to remain connected to the beauty of life despite challenges.

 Quick Tip

Identify recurring metaphors like “flowery band” to interpret their symbolic significance in a poem.

(iv) The use of the word ‘dearth’ creates a powerful image of

Answer: The use of the word ‘dearth’ creates a powerful image of a lack of noble qualities and human virtues.

Solution: The use of the word ‘dearth’ creates a powerful image of a lack of noble qualities and human virtues.

 Quick Tip

Pay attention to words like “dearth” to understand the poet’s critique of societal or moral shortcomings.

(v) Based on the rhyme scheme in lines 4 and 5, which of the following words will rhyme with ‘days’ and ‘ways’?

A.craze

B.pays

C.haste

D.waste

Answer: (B) pays

Solution: The rhyme scheme connects “days” and “ways” with “pays,” reflecting the continuity of themes and poetic structure.

 Quick Tip

Understanding rhyme patterns enhances comprehension of the musicality and thematic cohesion of poetry.

(vi) The lack of punctuation at the end of line 3 in the extract is to:

A.create a sense of continuity and flow that connects it with the fourth line.

B.encourage the reader to understand grammar.

C. forewarn the reader of gloomy days ahead.

D. keep us connected to this earth.

Answer: (A) create a sense of continuity and flow that connects it with the fourth line.

Solution: The lack of punctuation ensures a seamless connection between the lines, emphasizing the continuous and unbroken influence of beauty in overcoming life's challenges.

 Quick Tip

Look for structural techniques like enjambment to understand the poet's stylistic choices and their effect on meaning.

8. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any *one* of the given two, (a) or (b):

(a) *"If I am able, are you?" Sadao asked. "No," Hana said, "But if you can do it alone..." Sadao hesitated again. "The strange thing is," he said, "that if the man were whole I could turn him over to the police without difficulty. I care nothing for him. He is my enemy. All Americans are my enemy. And he is only a common fellow. You see how foolish his face is. But since he is wounded..."*
– (The Enemy)

Questions:

(i) Complete the sentence appropriately. The dilemma faced by the couple was _____.

Solution: The dilemma faced by the couple was whether to help the enemy soldier and save his life or to prioritize their loyalty to their country by handing him over to the authorities.

 Quick Tip

Pay attention to the moral and patriotic conflict faced by the characters, as it is central to the story's theme.

(ii) What does Hana ask Dr. Sadao to do alone?

(A) Treat the wounded soldier.

(B) Give him shelter in the outhouse.

(C) Throw him back into the sea.

(D) Hand him over to the authorities.

Correct Answer: (A) Treat the wounded soldier.

Solution: Hana asks Dr. Sadao to treat the wounded soldier alone because she is apprehensive about assisting him but trusts her husband's decision to save the soldier's life.

💡 Quick Tip

Understand character dynamics and their responses to ethical dilemmas to interpret their decisions.

(iii) Explain the expression: “if the man were whole.”

Solution: The expression “if the man were whole” implies that if the soldier were uninjured, Dr. Sadao would have turned him over to the police without hesitation, as there would have been no moral conflict about saving his life.

Solution: The expression “if the man were whole” implies that if the soldier were uninjured, Dr. Sadao would have turned him over to the police without hesitation, as there would have been no moral conflict about saving his life.

💡 Quick Tip

Consider how the soldier’s condition evokes empathy, challenging societal and personal biases.

(iv) Dr. Sadao says, “All Americans are my enemy.” What character trait of Dr. Sadao does it reflect?

Solution: This statement reflects Dr. Sadao’s patriotism and loyalty to his country during the war. Despite his duty as a doctor, he acknowledges his internalized prejudice against Americans due to the ongoing conflict.

💡 Quick Tip

Analyze how the author portrays characters grappling with national loyalty and moral obligations.

(b)

Mr. Lamb: So you did. Here we are, then.

Derry: You don’t know who I am.

Mr. Lamb: A boy. Thirteen or so.

Derry: Fourteen. [Pause] But I’ve got to go now. Good-bye.

Mr. Lamb: Nothing to be afraid of. Just a garden. Just me.

Derry: But I’m not...I’m not afraid. [Pause] People are afraid of me.*Derry: I’d not come to steal anything. Mr. Lamb: No, no. The young lads steal...scrump the apples. You’re not so young. Derry: I just...wanted to come in. Into the garden.*

Mr. Lamb: So you did. Here we are, then.

Derry: You don’t know who I am.

Mr. Lamb: A boy. Thirteen or so.

Derry: Fourteen. [Pause] But I've got to go now. Good-bye.

Mr. Lamb: Nothing to be afraid of. Just a garden. Just me.

Derry: But I'm not...I'm not afraid. [Pause] People are afraid of me.

– (On The Face Of It)

(i) Why does Mr. Lamb feel that Derry has not come to steal?

Solution: Mr. Lamb feels that Derry has not come to steal because Derry seems timid and hesitant. Mr. Lamb believes that stealing is something young, mischievous boys do, and Derry does not fit that description.

 **Quick Tip**

Focus on the interaction between Mr. Lamb and Derry to understand their contrasting perceptions.

(ii) Cite instances from the extract which show that Mr. Lamb is trying to put Derry at ease.

Solution: Mr. Lamb tries to put Derry at ease by being kind and welcoming. He reassures Derry by saying, "Here we are, then," and downplays Derry's nervousness by stating, "Nothing to be afraid of. Just a garden. Just me." His gentle tone and understanding nature help Derry feel more comfortable.

 **Quick Tip**

Observe how dialogue reveals character traits and interpersonal dynamics in literature.

(iii) Choose the correct statement:

- (A) Derry entered the garden as he was fascinated by the bees.
- (B) Derry came to meet Mr. Lamb.
- (C) They were well acquainted with each other.
- (D) Derry entered as he wanted to see the garden.

Correct Answer: (D) Derry entered as he wanted to see the garden.

Solution: Derry admits in the extract that he wanted to come into the garden, showing curiosity about the place rather than any premeditated purpose.

 **Quick Tip**

Identify the motivations behind a character's actions to understand their role in the story.

(iv) **People are afraid of Derry because -----.**

Solution: People are afraid of Derry because of his facial disfigurement, which makes him self-conscious and causes others to react unkindly or awkwardly, further deepening his sense of isolation.

 Quick Tip

Focus on how physical appearance influences societal perception and character development in the narrative.

9. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, (a) or (b):

(a) “Children grow up in them, becoming partners in survival. And survival in Seemapuri means rag-picking. Through the years, it has acquired the proportions of a fine art. Garbage to them is gold. It is their daily bread, a roof over their heads, even if it is a leaking roof. But for a child it is even more.”
– (Lost Spring)

(i) **Complete the sentence appropriately.** Children become partners in survival suggests that -----.

Solution: Children become partners in survival suggests that they contribute to their family’s income from a very young age, often by engaging in activities like rag-picking, to ensure their basic needs are met.

 Quick Tip

Focus on the socio-economic conditions of marginalized communities to understand their dependence on children for survival.

(ii) **Rag-picking has acquired the proportion of a fine art means:**

- (A) Artistic bend of mind is required.
- (B) It has proportionately displaced art.
- (C) It has become a highly skillful activity.
- (D) It has discovered pieces of art.

Correct Answer: (C) It has become a highly skillful activity.

Solution: Rag-picking is described as a fine art because children develop a keen eye and skill to pick items of value from garbage, treating it as a means of survival and a source of livelihood.

 Quick Tip

Understand how necessity drives children to acquire specialized skills for survival.

(iii) **State whether the given statement is True or False with reference to the extract:** *The children and their parents have left Dhaka to live in Seemapuri.* **Correct Answer:** True.

Solution: The extract mentions that the children and their families have migrated to Seemapuri from Dhaka in search of better opportunities and survival.

 Quick Tip

Migration often reflects the pursuit of survival and better living conditions among marginalized groups.

(iv) **Why does the author say ‘survival in Seemapuri means rag-picking’?**

Solution: The author says this because rag-picking is the primary means of livelihood for the people in Seemapuri. It provides them with their daily bread, a roof over their heads, and sustains their existence.

 Quick Tip

Link the theme of survival to the economic realities depicted in the extract.

(v) **What does the phrase “for a child it is even more” reveal about the children’s dreams?**

Solution: The phrase reveals that for children, rag-picking represents more than survival—it symbolizes hope, dreams, and a way to find small treasures in their harsh reality, which keeps their spirits alive.

 Quick Tip

Focus on how the author portrays the resilience and aspirations of children despite their struggles.

(vi) **Which of the following headlines suggests the central idea of the extract?**

- (A) *Seemapuri, A Pot of Gold*
- (B) *Rag-picking – Different Perspectives*
- (C) *Art in Delhi and in Seemapuri*
- (D) *Saheb-e-Alam in Seemapuri*

Correct Answer: (A) *Seemapuri, A Pot of Gold.*

Solution: The headline “Seemapuri, A Pot of Gold” captures the essence of the extract, as the people of Seemapuri view garbage as valuable and essential for their survival.

 Quick Tip

Identify key metaphors in the text to understand the author's message.

B. "This settlement was adopted unanimously by the commission. Gandhi explained that the amount of the refund was less important than the fact that the landlords had been obliged to surrender part of the money and, with it, part of their prestige. Therefore, as far as the peasants were concerned, the planters had behaved as lords above the law. Now the peasant saw that he had rights and defenders. He learned courage." – (Indigo)

(i) What was Gandhi's purpose in agreeing to the settlement, even at a lesser amount?

Solution: *Gandhi's purpose in agreeing to the settlement, even at a lesser amount, was to establish the principle that the landlords could not exploit the peasants indefinitely. He wanted to show the peasants that they had rights and could fight for justice, thereby boosting their courage and self-respect.*

 Quick Tip

Focus on Gandhi's strategies in empowering the marginalized through symbolic victories.

(ii) Complete the sentence with one word: *The commission agreed by common consent, or in other words, they agreed to the settlement*

Solution: *The commission agreed by common consent, or in other words, they agreed to the settlement **unanimously**.*

 Quick Tip

Pay attention to the language that reflects collective decision-making in historical events.

(iii) Explain the impact on the landlords as a result of the settlement.

Solution: *The settlement forced the landlords to surrender part of their money and, more importantly, part of their prestige. This marked a significant shift in power dynamics, showing the landlords that they were no longer above the law and that their dominance over the peasants could be challenged successfully.*

 Quick Tip

Analyze how the settlement affected both parties' power dynamics and societal status.

(iv) Based on the content provided in the extract, select the most likely option

about the behaviour of the landlords:

- (A) The landlords were sorry for their behaviour.
- (B) The landlords were obstinate and refused Gandhi's suggestion.
- (C) The landlords had to refund the money.
- (D) The landlords and the planters became partners in the Indigo plantation.

Correct Answer: (C) The landlords had to refund the money.

Solution: The landlords were compelled to refund a part of the money to the peasants, which also marked a loss of their prestige and power.

 **Quick Tip**

Understand the significance of symbolic victories in social justice movements.

(v) What did the peasants realize from the Champaran incident?

Solution: The peasants realized that they had rights and could assert them. They learned that with courage and proper support, they could challenge the unjust practices of the landlords and secure justice.

 **Quick Tip**

Focus on how the incident fostered awareness and empowerment among the oppressed.

(vi) Complete the sentence appropriately. The phrase 'lords above the law' suggests that -----.

Solution: The phrase 'lords above the law' suggests that the landlords considered themselves superior and beyond the reach of legal or moral accountability, exercising unchecked power over the peasants.

 **Quick Tip**

Consider how language in the extract reflects societal hierarchies and power structures.

10. Answer any five of the following six questions in 40 – 50 words each:

(i) What was the 'thunderclap' the narrator received as M. Hamel began the lesson? **Solution:** The 'thunderclap' was the shocking news that this was M. Hamel's last French lesson. The school and teaching of the French language were being banned as a result of Prussian rule in Alsace and Lorraine.

 Quick Tip

Franz's realization about the importance of learning his native language highlights the value of education and culture.

(ii) Explain the sentence “an army of barefoot boys who appear like the morning birds and disappear at noon.” Solution: *This sentence refers to poor children in rural areas who collect garbage and waste early in the morning to support their families. By noon, they disappear as they return home, highlighting their difficult life of survival.*

 Quick Tip

The metaphor compares the children's life to nature, emphasizing the harsh realities of poverty and survival.

(iii) The lesson ‘The Rattrap’ is both entertaining and philosophical. Do you agree with the statement? Give reasons. Solution: *Yes, the lesson is entertaining with its suspenseful plot and the peddler's interactions, while it is philosophical in conveying the idea that the world is a rattrap of materialistic temptations. It emphasizes human compassion and redemption through love and kindness.*

 Quick Tip

Selma Lagerlöf's story teaches the importance of compassion and redemption in transforming human nature.

(iv) Bring out the contrast between Jansie and Sophie in the story ‘Going Places’. **Solution:** *Jansie is realistic and practical, accepting her modest background and future as a worker. Sophie, on the other hand, is a dreamer with unrealistic aspirations of a glamorous life, such as becoming an actress or meeting a famous footballer.*

 Quick Tip

The story emphasizes the struggle between aspirations and reality in the life of young dreamers.

(v) How was there a great deal of national integration in the make-up department? Solution: *The make-up department at Gemini Studios had people from various parts of India—Bengal, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu—working together. This diversity reflected a sense of national integration despite linguistic and cultural differences.*

 Quick Tip

R.K. Narayan's humor in 'Poets and Pancakes' subtly highlights India's unity in diversity.

(vi) Did Umberto Eco like to be identified as a novelist? Give reasons in support of your answer. Solution: No, Umberto Eco did not like to be identified solely as a novelist. He considered himself a scholar and professor who wrote novels in his free time. His academic pursuits and work in semiotics were more central to his identity.

 Quick Tip

Umberto Eco's identity as a thinker extended beyond literature, showing his multidisciplinary expertise.

11. Answer any two of the following three questions in 40 – 50 words each:

(i) Do you think the prediction made by the state astrologer “was indisputably disproved”? Give reasons in support of your answer. Solution: Yes, the prediction was indisputably disproved. The state astrologer predicted that the hundredth tiger would cause the Tiger King's death. However, the Tiger King was killed by a wooden toy tiger, highlighting the irony of fate and invalidating the astrologer's prediction.

 Quick Tip

The story is a satire on human pride and the illusion of controlling destiny.

(ii) “Then I lost my spirit.” What are the incidents that led Zitkala-Sa to feel this way? Solution: Zitkala-Sa felt this way when her long hair was forcibly cut, despite her resistance. She perceived the cutting of her hair as a violation of her cultural identity, which symbolized strength and dignity in her Native American tradition. This experience left her feeling defeated and broken.

 Quick Tip

The story highlights the struggles of indigenous people against cultural oppression.

(iii) Tishani Doshi considered the programme ‘Students on Ice’ a success. Do you agree with her? Why/Why not? Solution: Yes, the programme was a success. It provided students with firsthand experience of the fragile ecosystems in Antarctica, fostering environmental awareness. Tishani Doshi believed that such exposure was vital to understanding

climate change and its global impact, which the students carried forward as ambassadors for sustainability.

 Quick Tip

Experiential learning is a powerful tool for environmental awareness and action.

12: Answer any one of the following two questions in 120 – 150 words:

(a) If Aunt Jennifer speaks to Pablo Neruda, the poet of “Keeping Quiet”, about her problems and constraints, would it be right for her to accept his response of introspection, reflection, and silence? Write a letter to Pablo Neruda expressing her views.

OR

(b) Imagine you are Mukund Padmanabhan (The Interview) and you interviewed M. Hamel after he had finished delivering the last lesson (The Last Lesson). Write a paragraph on Hamel’s views on individual responsibility and nationalism.

Solution:

(a) Letter to Pablo Neruda

Aunt Jennifer

sert Address Here

sert Date Here

To,

Pablo Neruda,
sert Address Here

.

Subject: Views on Introspection, Reflection, and Silence

Dear Pablo Neruda,

I am writing to express my thoughts on your perspective of introspection, reflection, and silence as a means to address life’s challenges, as outlined in your poem “Keeping Quiet.” As someone burdened by societal constraints and personal struggles, I often feel trapped and unheard. While I agree that moments of reflection can bring clarity and peace, I find it difficult to believe that silence alone can resolve the deep-rooted injustices and limitations faced by individuals like me. Action and dialogue, in addition to self-reflection, are necessary to create meaningful change. Your advocacy for stillness is thought-provoking, but I hope for a more balanced approach where contemplation inspires action. I would value your response on how silence and introspection can coexist with courage and effort to overcome constraints.

Yours sincerely,

Aunt Jennifer

 Quick Tip

When analyzing literature, consider different perspectives and the implications of silence versus action.

(b) Paragraph on M. Hamel's Views on Individual Responsibility and Nationalism

As Mukund Padmanabhan, I had the privilege of interviewing M. Hamel after his poignant final lesson. He shared profound insights into the importance of individual responsibility and nationalism. M. Hamel emphasized that true patriotism lies in valuing one's language, culture, and heritage. He regretted that the people of Alsace had taken their language for granted, leading to its decline under foreign domination. According to him, every citizen must take responsibility for preserving their identity and contributing to the nation's progress. He urged individuals to be vigilant about their duties, as a strong nation is built upon the collective effort of responsible citizens. His words resonated deeply, highlighting that love for one's country begins with respect for its language and traditions.

 Quick Tip

Nationalism is more than political allegiance—it is rooted in preserving language, culture, and knowledge.

13. Answer any one of the following two questions in 120 – 150 words:

(a) Justify the statement, ‘It may take a long time for oppression to be resisted but the seeds of rebellion are sowed early in life.’ (Memories of Childhood)

Solution: The seeds of rebellion are often sown during childhood, as seen in “Memories of Childhood.” Zitkala-Sa’s resistance to having her hair forcibly cut symbolizes her refusal to accept the oppressive cultural norms imposed on her. Though she ultimately succumbs, her inner spirit of defiance remains intact. Similarly, Bama’s realization of caste discrimination leads her to excel in education as an act of resistance. Both instances show how early experiences of oppression inspire individuals to challenge injustice later in life.

 Quick Tip

Social change begins with awareness; early experiences shape future resistance against injustice.

(b) The story “The Tiger King” is a satire on the conceit of those in power. How does the author employ the literary device of dramatic irony in the story? (The Tiger King)

Solution: Dramatic irony is central to the satire in “The Tiger King.” The king’s obsession with killing tigers to avoid his prophesied death ironically leads to his demise by a wooden toy tiger. His arrogance and misplaced priorities highlight the folly of absolute power. While the king believes he has outwitted fate, the audience is aware of his impending doom. The story critiques the vanity and self-importance of rulers who focus on trivial pursuits while ignoring

their responsibilities.

💡 *Quick Tip*

Dramatic irony adds depth to satire, highlighting the folly of those in power.
