

CBSE 12 English SET-2 (1/1/2) 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) The term **Artificial Intelligence** spells a future in which this emerging technology will impact every aspect of human existence. In fact, little do we know, it has already crept into our lives, slowly, but surely. Look around you — education, health care, industry, innovation, robots, robotic surgeries, transportation, home service — it's already there. It will change the lifestyle of everyone from the technology industry to normal people.

(2) The past fifteen years have seen considerable AI advances in education. You enter school and AI takes your attendance using face recognition. Various applications are in wide use by educators and learners today. AI technologies assist teachers in the classroom. Learning at home is likely to expand significantly, along with learning based on virtual reality applications. Though quality education will always require active engagement by human teachers, AI promises to enhance education at all levels, especially by providing personalization at scale.

(3) The evolution of new technologies, mobile, and the Internet are changing lifestyles. **Artificial intelligence** is playing an important role in every sector such as banking, driving, education, e-commerce, electronics, robotics. Systems of artificial intelligence are aiming to stimulate execution and decision-making that is human-like. In targeted applications, substantial increases in the future uses of AI technologies, including more driverless cars, healthcare

diagnostics and targeted treatments, and physical assistance for elder care can be expected. AI and robotics will also be applied across the globe in industries struggling such as agriculture, food processing and factories. They will facilitate delivery of online purchases through flying drones, self-driving trucks or robots.

(4) AI-based applications could improve health outcomes and quality of life for millions of people in the coming years — prime applications include clinical decision support, patient monitoring and coaching, automated devices to assist in surgery or patient care, and management of healthcare systems. Recent successes, such as mining social media to infer possible health risks, machine learning to predict patients at risk, and robotics to support surgery have expanded a sense of possibility for AI in healthcare.

(5) People's future relationships with machines will become ever more personalized as AI systems learn to adapt to individual personalities, ambitions and goals. These AI applications will help monitor people's well-being, alert them to the impending risks, and deliver services when needed or wanted.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:

(i) Select the word that most appropriately defines Artificial Intelligence today.

- (A) rewarding
- (B) universal
- (C) luxurious
- (D) temporary

Correct Answer: (B) *universal*

Solution: The passage highlights how Artificial Intelligence has infiltrated diverse domains like education, health care, transportation, and more. This indicates that AI has become a universal concept, affecting various aspects of life.

 Quick Tip

Focus on the wide-ranging applications of AI mentioned in the text to choose the most relevant option.

(ii) What is the connection between 'face recognition' in school education and AI?

Correct Answer: AI uses face recognition technology to take attendance in schools, as mentioned in paragraph 2. This demonstrates the application of AI in automating tasks within educational institutions.

 Quick Tip

Relate your answer to specific technological applications of AI mentioned in the passage, such as automation or personalization.

(iii) Which one of the following do you infer from para 2?

- (A) School education will become a virtual engagement.
- (B) The teacher will be replaced by AI.
- (C) Human teachers will play a passive role in the classroom.
- (D) Human teachers are irreplaceable.

Correct Answer: (D) *Human teachers are irreplaceable*

Solution: The text mentions that while AI enhances education through personalization and technological tools, quality education still requires the active engagement of human teachers. This shows that teachers remain indispensable in education.

 Quick Tip

Focus on the passage's discussion about how AI complements but does not replace the emotional and instructional roles of human teachers.

(iv) Share evidence from the text, in about 40 words, about how AI can support the field of education.

Correct Answer: AI supports education through face recognition for attendance, personalized learning, and virtual reality applications. It also helps teachers in classrooms by providing tools to enhance learning outcomes, expanding the possibilities of education at scale.

 Quick Tip

Always relate your answers to specific phrases or ideas from the passage to ensure accuracy and alignment with the content.

(v) The phrase 'stimulate execution' in para 3 nearly means:

- (A) imitate creations
- (B) strategise destructions
- (C) shake inventions
- (D) motivate implementation

Correct Answer: (D) *motivate implementation*

Solution: The phrase 'stimulate execution' refers to the process of encouraging or motivating the implementation of ideas or systems, as suggested by the passage discussing AI's role in decision-making and execution.

 Quick Tip

Understand the context in which the phrase is used to determine its meaning accurately.

(vi) **With evidence from the text, explain in about 40 words, two ways in which AI will help in the healthcare sector.**

Correct Answer: AI will assist in healthcare by providing clinical decision support, patient monitoring, and coaching. It also contributes to robotics-supported surgeries, targeted treatments, and predicting health risks using machine learning.

 Quick Tip

Refer to specific benefits of AI in healthcare from the passage, such as improved diagnostics or robotic interventions.

(vii) **According to the passage, why does the author conclude that people's relationships with machines will become more personalised?**

Correct Answer: The author concludes that AI systems will adapt to individual personalities, ambitions, and goals. This adaptability will enable machines to deliver personalized services and monitor users' well-being more effectively.

 Quick Tip

Understand how AI's adaptability can improve human-machine interactions by focusing on personalized services and tailored experiences.

(viii) **Complete the following statement: AI will make the commercial supply chain smoother by _____.**

Correct Answer: AI will make the commercial supply chain smoother by facilitating delivery services through flying drones, self-driving trucks, and robots, as mentioned in the passage.

 Quick Tip

Always refer to specific parts of the passage when answering comprehension-based questions for accurate and precise responses.

(ix) **Read the five headlines given below (I – V) :**

I. AI WILL IMPACT EVERY ASPECT OF OUR LIVES

- II. AI WILL BE A BOON TO THE MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS
- III. SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS WILL BE CONTROLLED BY AI
- IV. AI IS A MAJOR REASON FOR RISING UNEMPLOYMENT TODAY
- V. FACTORY OWNERS WILL NOT USE AI FOR FEAR OF ITS UNPREDICTABILITY

Identify the option that displays the headline/s that does/do not correspond with occurrences in the passage.

- (A) only V
- (B) II and III
- (C) IV and V
- (D) III, IV and V

Solution:

Headlines that do not correspond with occurrences in the passage are:

- III. SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS WILL BE CONTROLLED BY AI
- IV. AI IS A MAJOR REASON FOR RISING UNEMPLOYMENT TODAY
- V. FACTORY OWNERS WILL NOT USE AI FOR FEAR OF ITS UNPREDICTABILITY

Correct Answer: (D) III, IV and V.

💡 Quick Tip

Always refer back to specific claims in the passage to identify inaccuracies or unsupported statements in comprehension questions.

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.

Correct Answer: The survey reveals that financial security is a significant source of happiness for 66% of Indian youth, while 89% report family support as a major contributor. However, 65% experience stress due to academic workload, and 25% feel lonely.

 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."

Correct Answer: Economic pressures affect youth's mental well-being and happiness. Financial support can alleviate stress by covering essential expenses, reducing anxieties related to money, and enabling access to resources like counseling, education, and basic necessities.

 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."

Correct Answer: The passage mentions that 65% of Indian youth face stress related to academic workload or performance, while 25% feel lonely. This stress adversely impacts their overall happiness and points to the need for mental health support.

 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 emphasizes financial security, family support, and mental health support as key contributors to youth well-being. Books and literature are not mentioned as significant factors.

 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 highlights financial support as an essential factor in alleviating economic pressures, which significantly contribute to youth stress. Academic performance alone does not account for the stress levels of today's youth.

 Quick Tip

When answering comprehension questions, refer to specific details and statistics provided in the passage to substantiate your answers.

(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

Options:

- (A) I and II

- (B) II and III
(C) I and IV
(D) II and IV

Correct Answer: (C) *I and IV*

Solution: The passage highlights collectivism and family ties as key contributors to the happiness and well-being of today's youth, emphasizing the importance of strong social and familial support.

 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 -----.

Correct Answer: The mental health of today's youth can be managed by resources like *counseling services* and *mindfulness activities*.

Solution: The passage suggests that resources such as counseling services and mindfulness activities help young people cope with stress and challenging circumstances.

 Quick Tip

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

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

(a) purposefulness (b) financial status (c) family support (d) stress

Correct Answer: (c) *family support*, (b) *financial status*, (a) *purposefulness*, (d) *stress*

Solution: According to the passage, family support (89%) is the most significant contributor to happiness, followed by financial status (66%), purposefulness (50%), and stress, which negatively impacts happiness.

 Quick Tip

When ranking or choosing options, always refer to the data and key phrases in the passage for accuracy.

SECTION B

Creative Writing Skills

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

(a) You are Bala/Bandhini, school counsellor of Bala Vidyagram School, Dharti Bagh. Your school is organising a Career Counselling Fair. Write a notice encouraging students to attend the fair. Mention the benefits and include necessary details.

Solution: NOTICE Bala Vidyagram School, Dharti Bagh Career Counselling Fair

Date: [Insert Date]

Dear Students, We are pleased to announce a Career Counselling Fair to help students explore various career options and make informed decisions about their future. Expert counselors will provide guidance on education and career planning.

****Date:**** [Insert Date] ****Time:**** [Insert Time] ****Venue:**** School Auditorium

Don't miss this opportunity to shape your future!

- Bala/Bandhini, School Counsellor

 Quick Tip

Always include key details like date, time, venue, and purpose while drafting a notice. Use concise language and focus on the benefits to grab attention.

(b) You are Secretary of Highrise Society, Vayu Nagar. Write a notice to the homeowners inviting them to attend the forthcoming meeting to discuss the election of the new committee and the changes to be made in the regulations. Include necessary details about the time and duration of the meeting.

Solution: NOTICE Highrise Society, Vayu Nagar General Meeting Invitation Date: [Insert Date]

Dear Homeowners, This is to inform you about a forthcoming meeting to discuss the election of the new committee and proposed changes to the society regulations.

****Date:**** [Insert Date] ****Time:**** [Insert Time] ****Duration:**** 2 hours ****Venue:**** Community Hall

Your presence is important for making key decisions.

- Secretary, Highrise Society

 Quick Tip

When drafting notices, ensure clarity by including the purpose, date, time, and venue. Avoid unnecessary details and maintain a formal tone.

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

(a) Write a formal invitation letter inviting Shri Saras Rathore, the Education Minister, to be the Chief Guest at your high school's annual day celebrations. Include details of the event such as date and time, cultural events, etc. You are Savitri/Saurabh Trehan, Principal, Tyagraj Public School, Surya Nagar.

Solution: Formal Invitation

Tyagraj Public School, Surya Nagar [Insert Date]

To, Shri Saras Rathore, Education Minister, [Insert Address]

Dear Sir,

We are delighted to invite you as the Chief Guest for our Annual Day Celebrations at Tyagraj Public School.

****Date:**** [Insert Date] ****Time:**** [Insert Time] ****Venue:**** School Auditorium

The event will showcase cultural performances, academic achievements, and more. Your presence will inspire our students.

Warm regards, Savitri/Saurabh Trehan Principal, Tyagraj Public School

 Quick Tip

A formal invitation should maintain a respectful tone and include all essential event details such as date, time, venue, and purpose.

(b) You have been invited to a close friend's wedding. Write an informal letter expressing your excitement and gratitude for the invitation. Create an appropriate reply accepting the invitation. Invent necessary details.

Solution: Informal Letter

[Your Address] [City, State, ZIP Code] [Insert Date]

Dear [Friend's Name],

I am thrilled to receive your wedding invitation. Congratulations! It fills me with joy to celebrate such a special moment in your life. I am pleased to confirm my presence at the event and look forward to sharing your happiness.

Warm regards, [Your Name]

 Quick Tip

In an informal letter, maintain a friendly tone and express genuine feelings of joy and gratitude while keeping it concise and heartfelt.

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

(a) You are Arti/Anuj, a resident of A-33, Himani Enclave, Sadar Nagar. You saw an advertisement in *The National Times* for the post of Accounts Officer and wish to apply for the post. Write a letter to the General Manager, A.S. Consultants along with your bio-data expressing your interest in the advertised post.

A.S. Consultants

Hiring

Accounts Officer

Job Description

- **Improve systems and procedures**
- **Maintain financial files**
- **Analyse expenditure data**

Education : BBA/B.Com; MBA/M.Com

Skills : Good Communication Skills

Experience : 2 Years

Solution: A-33, Himani Enclave, Sadar Nagar [Insert Date]

The General Manager, A.S. Consultants, [Insert Address]

Subject: Application for the Post of Accounts Officer

Dear Sir/Madam,

This is to express my keen interest in the position of Accounts Officer as advertised in *The National Times*. With a degree in B.Com and an MBA in Finance, coupled with two years of experience, I am confident in my ability to contribute effectively to your organization. My skills include analyzing expenditure data, maintaining financial records, and improving systems and procedures.

Attached herewith is my bio-data for your kind consideration. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss how my expertise aligns with your requirements.

Warm regards, Arti/Anuj

Enclosure: Bio-data

Quick Tip

In a formal letter of application, mention your qualifications, relevant experience, and enthusiasm for the role while maintaining a professional tone.

5(b). A book fair was organized in your city, Birnagar. Thousands of people including a large number of students visited and benefitted from the fair. It aroused a great interest in the revival of buying and reading books. You want that such book fairs should be organized in other cities of the state to promote the habit of

reading. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily sharing your views on the issue and suggesting ways of encouraging reading as a habit. You are Vinod/Vanita of F-115, Roop Nagar, Birnagar.

- make reading a habit
- take trips to the library
- promote a reading culture in schools
- set reading goals
- let children choose their books
- read with the children

Solution:

F-115, Roop Nagar, Birnagar [Insert Date]

The Editor, [Insert Newspaper Name], [Insert Address]

Subject: Promoting Book Fairs to Encourage Reading Habits

Dear Sir/Madam,

Through the esteemed columns of your newspaper, I wish to express my views on the recent book fair organized in our city, Birnagar. The fair witnessed an overwhelming response, with thousands of people, including students, attending and benefiting from the event. It has rekindled an interest in reading and revived the culture of buying books.

I strongly believe that similar book fairs should be organized in other cities of the state to encourage the habit of reading. To promote this initiative further, the following suggestions could be implemented:

- Making reading a regular habit through family and community initiatives.
- Encouraging trips to libraries and bookshops.
- Promoting a reading culture in schools with dedicated reading hours.
- Setting reading goals for children and adults alike.
- Allowing children to choose their books to foster interest.
- Parents reading alongside their children to create shared experiences.

Such efforts will not only inspire individuals but also contribute to a literate and informed society. I hope my suggestions will be considered and acted upon by the concerned authorities.

Yours sincerely, Vinod/Vanita

💡 Quick Tip

When writing to an editor, clearly state the issue, its importance, and suggest actionable steps to address the problem. Maintain a formal and persuasive tone.

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

(a) You are Shiksha/Sameer of XI-C. Write an article for your school magazine on the benefits of participating in the co-curricular activities of the school. Use the given cues along with your own ideas to compose this article.

Participation :

- develops personality
- boosts confidence
- creates a sense of responsibility
- is an exposure to new activities
- nurtures organizational skills
- improves communication and inter-personal skills

Solution:

Benefits of Participating in Co-Curricular Activities By Shiksha/Sameer, XI-C

Co-curricular activities are an essential part of school life, offering students opportunities to develop holistically beyond academics. Participation in such activities brings a host of benefits: Firstly, it helps in **developing personality** and boosting self-confidence. Engaging in various tasks creates a sense of responsibility and fosters discipline. Additionally, these activities expose students to **new experiences**, broadening their horizons and inspiring them to try diverse pursuits.

Co-curricular engagements also **nurture organizational skills**, enabling students to manage tasks effectively. Moreover, participating in group activities like debates, dramas, or sports **improves communication and interpersonal skills**, teaching teamwork and collaboration. These activities are vital for shaping a student's future, ensuring they grow into well-rounded, confident, and capable individuals. Schools must encourage active participation to build better citizens for tomorrow.

💡 Quick Tip

When writing an article, structure it with an introduction, main content, and conclusion. Highlight specific examples to support your points.

6. (b) Addiction to mobile phones is becoming a cause of concern today. It is impacting both physical and mental health of young and old alike. You attended a workshop on ‘Joy of Missing Out’ organized by Home Association. As the local correspondent, write a report on the event. You may use the following cues along with your own ideas. You are Rita/Rakesh of Savitri Nagar.

- Problems**
- preoccupation and compulsion of mobile phone use
 - withdrawal symptoms such as irritation, anxiety and depression when stopped
- Solutions**
- set limits for usage
 - turn your phone off
 - practice mindfulness
 - engage in physical activities

Solution:

Report on the Workshop: ‘Joy of Missing Out’ By Rita/Rakesh, Savitri Nagar

The workshop on ‘Joy of Missing Out,’ organized by Home Association on [Insert Date], proved to be an eye-opener for attendees of all age groups. Addressing the growing issue of mobile phone addiction, the session highlighted its detrimental effects on physical and mental health. Experts emphasized the **problems** associated with overuse, including preoccupation and compulsion to check phones, withdrawal symptoms like irritation, anxiety, and even depression when phone use is restricted. These alarming issues are affecting people’s productivity, relationships, and overall well-being.

Practical **solutions** were suggested during the session, including setting limits for mobile phone usage, turning off phones during specific hours, practicing mindfulness, and engaging in physical activities to combat addiction.

The interactive session inspired participants to embrace the joy of missing out and reclaim their time for meaningful activities. The workshop concluded with a pledge by attendees to adopt healthier digital habits.

💡 Quick Tip

When drafting a report, include key highlights, the purpose of the event, and its outcomes. Use clear and concise language to convey the information.

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) Beauty provides security and peace.
- (B) Beauty lies in possession of expensive things.
- (C) Beauty is synonymous with power and riches.
- (D) Beauty lies in our rich heritage and palaces and temples.

Correct Answer: (A) Beauty provides security and peace.

Explanation:

The lines of the poem highlight how beauty is eternal and a source of joy and comfort. It creates a peaceful refuge ("a bower quiet for us") and brings health, rest, and sweet dreams. This indicates that beauty is associated with peace and security, making it an everlasting source of solace for the human soul.

 Quick Tip

Focus on how the poet portrays beauty as a timeless and peaceful entity, providing a haven of joy and restfulness.

(ii) **Complete the following sentence appropriately.**

A thing of beauty never passes into nothingness because it is _____.

Solution:

A thing of beauty never passes into nothingness because it is **eternal**.

 Quick Tip

When answering descriptive questions, focus on key phrases in the text that highlight the meaning and intent of the author.

(iii) ‘Quiet bower’ means a pleasant, shady, quiet place under trees or in the woods. This creates a sense of _____.

Solution:

‘Quiet bower’ means a pleasant, shady, quiet place under trees or in the woods. This creates a sense of **peace and calm**.

 Quick Tip

When interpreting poetic phrases, focus on the imagery and emotions they evoke to understand their deeper meaning.

(iv) State whether the given statement is *True* or *False* with reference to the extract.

The quality of a thing ensures that its beauty lasts forever.

Solution:

The statement is **True**. The extract describes how a thing of beauty is a joy forever and never fades into nothingness.

 Quick Tip

Pay attention to the key ideas in a poetic extract to identify statements that align with the poet’s intended message.

(v) Based on the rhyme scheme in lines 3 and 4 of the given extract, which word will rhyme with them?

- (A) please
- (B) sweep
- (C) help
- (D) self

Correct Answer:

The correct answer is **(B) sweep**.

Solution: The rhyme scheme in lines 3 and 4 suggests that the word **sweep** rhymes with **keep** and fits naturally within the rhythm and structure of the poem.

 Quick Tip

Identifying the rhyme scheme requires matching the ending sounds of lines to determine the correct rhyming word.

(vi) The use of the word ‘health’ in the extract suggests that beautiful things will give us a happier and more wholesome life. It creates a powerful image of

- (A) rejuvenation
- (B) attachment
- (C) long life
- (D) eternity

Solution:

The correct answer is **(A) rejuvenation**.

Explanation: The word ‘health’ implies that beautiful things rejuvenate us, leading to a happier and more fulfilling life by promoting positivity and well-being.

 Quick Tip

Analyze the emotional and symbolic meaning of words like ‘health’ in poetry to uncover their impact on the theme.

(b) Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers prance across a screen,

Bright topaz denizens of a world of green.

do not fear the men beneath the tree;

They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.

(Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers)

(i) Which of the following are symbolised by the ‘tigers’ in the extract above?

- I. masculine world
- II. feminine world
- III. world of bold, fearless creatures
- IV. world of beautiful handicrafts

- (A) I, II and III
- (B) II, III and IV
- (C) III and IV
- (D) I, III and IV

Correct Answer: (B) II, III and IV

Solution: The tigers symbolize the bold, fearless spirit Aunt Jennifer aspires to, while also representing the creativity in her embroidery. The feminine world of handicrafts contrasts with her suppressed life.

 Quick Tip

Identify the symbolic elements in the poem to understand the deeper meaning of the imagery used by the poet.

(ii) State whether the given statement is True or False.
The creator of the tigers was fearless and assertive like the tigers.

Correct Answer: True

Solution: The statement is **False**. Although Aunt Jennifer was timid and oppressed, her creation, the tigers, symbolizes fearlessness and assertiveness, reflecting her unfulfilled desire for strength and freedom.

 Quick Tip

When analyzing poetry, focus on the contrast between the creator and their creation to identify underlying themes and emotions.

(iii) Complete the following sentence.
The use of the word ‘topaz’ suggests that the image of the tiger on the screen is _____.

Correct Answer: bright and glowing

Solution: The word ‘topaz’ refers to a precious gem known for its bright, radiant glow. Its use in the poem emphasizes the vivid and striking appearance of the tigers.

 Quick Tip

Focus on symbolic words like ‘topaz’ in poetry to understand the imagery and connotations they bring to the text.

(iv) ‘Tigers do not fear the men beneath the tree’ because they are
(A) tamed
(B) in a cage
(C) fearless

(D) kings of the jungle

Correct Answer: (C) fearless

Solution: The tigers are portrayed as bold and confident creatures. They symbolize strength and fearlessness, which stands in stark contrast to Aunt Jennifer's timid and suppressed life.

 Quick Tip

Understand the symbolic traits of characters or objects in poetry to grasp the poem's deeper meaning and themes.

(v) Based on the poem's rhyme scheme evident in lines 1 and 2, which of the following will rhyme?
mean, akin, cream

Correct Answer: mean and cream.

Solution: The rhyme scheme in lines 1 and 2 suggests that 'mean' rhymes with 'cream,' as they share a similar ending sound.

 Quick Tip

Identifying rhyme schemes helps in understanding the poem's structure and the rhythmic flow of its lines.

(vi) Chivalric certainty refers to which poetic device?

- (A) Alliteration
- (B) Metaphor
- (C) Simile
- (D) Repetition

Correct Answer: (A) Alliteration.

Solution: 'Chivalric certainty' is an example of alliteration, as the repetition of the 'c' sound in consecutive words creates a rhythmic effect, emphasizing the bold and confident nature of the tigers.

 Quick Tip

Identify alliteration by looking for the repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning of closely connected words.

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

(a)

Derry: I....there....I thought this was an empty place. I didn't know there was anybody here....

Mr. Lamb: That's all right. I'm here. What are you afraid of, boy? That's all right.

Derry: I thought it was empty....an empty house.

Mr. Lamb: So it is. Since I'm out here in the garden. It *is* empty. Until I go back inside. In the meantime, I'm out here and likely to stop. A day like this. Beautiful day. Not a day to be indoors.

Derry: [*Panic*] I've got to go.

(On The Face Of It)

(i) Derry was stammering because of:

(A) a speech defect.

(B) excitement.

(C) anger.

(D) fear.

Correct Answer: (D) fear.

Solution: Derry's stammering was due to fear, as he was nervous and uncomfortable in certain social situations, which is commonly reflected in his behavior.

 Quick Tip

Understand the emotions and behavior of characters to interpret their dialogue and actions correctly.

(ii) Complete the sentence appropriately.

Derry insisted on going back because _____.

Correct Answer: He wanted to prove his determination and build his self-confidence.

Solution: Derry insisted on going back because he wanted to show that he was not weak and could take control of his life decisions.

 Quick Tip

When analyzing characters, focus on their motives and emotional development as reflected in their actions and dialogues.

(iii) Mr. Lamb was trying to tell Derry that:

- (A) it was a matter of perception.
- (B) Derry could stay with him.
- (C) he spent all his days in the garden.
- (D) he was fond of company.

Correct Answer: (A) it was a matter of perception.

Solution: Mr. Lamb was explaining to Derry that his scars were only a problem because of how he perceived them. He encouraged Derry to change his outlook on life and not let physical appearance define him.

 Quick Tip

The power of perception can transform how we view challenges in life. Focus on the positive to overcome negativity.

(iv) From the extract, one can infer that Mr. Lamb was a/an:

- (A) compassionate man.
- (B) mysterious character.
- (C) new neighbour.
- (D) unreasonable man.

Correct Answer: (A) compassionate man.

Solution: From the extract, it is evident that Mr. Lamb was a kind-hearted and compassionate individual. He offered comfort, encouragement, and life lessons to Derry, showing his empathetic nature and wisdom.

 Quick Tip

Empathy and kindness have the power to positively impact others and build meaningful connections.

b:

Anyway, here's what happened at Grand Central. One night last summer I worked late at the office. I was in a hurry to get uptown to my apartment, so I decided to take the subway from Grand Central because it's faster than the bus.

Now, I don't know why this should have happened to me. I'm just an ordinary guy named Charley, thirty-one years old, and I was wearing a tan gabardine suit and a straw hat with a fancy band; I passed a dozen men who looked just like me. (The Third Level)

(i) List any two details about how Charley was dressed up.

Correct Answer: Charley was dressed in:

1. A tan gabardine suit.
2. A straw hat with a fancy band.

 Quick Tip

Descriptions of attire and setting are often used to establish the time period or mood in a narrative.

(ii) Charley decided to use the subway because it was:

- (A) quicker.
- (B) cheaper.
- (C) more fashionable.
- (D) safer.

Correct Answer: (A) quicker.

Solution: Charley opted for the subway as it was faster than taking the bus, and he was in a hurry to reach his apartment.

 Quick Tip

Analyze choices made by characters in specific situations to understand their priorities or constraints.

(iii) Complete the following sentence appropriately.

Landing at the third level was due to Charley's flight of _____.

Correct Answer: imagination.

Solution: Charley's experience at the third level symbolizes his escapism, driven by his imagination and a longing to escape the harsh realities of life.

 Quick Tip

Imagination can create worlds beyond reality, offering a way to cope with challenges and find solace.

(iv) Which time frame is represented through the kind of outfit mentioned in the extract?

- (A) pre World War era
- (B) the present times
- (C) the eighteenth century
- (D) in the future

Correct Answer: (A) pre World War era.

Solution: The outfit described in the extract, including the tan gabardine suit and the straw hat with a fancy band, reflects the fashion style prevalent during the pre-World War era. This points to a time before modern clothing trends took hold.

 Quick Tip

Fashion and cultural references in a story can help pinpoint the timeline of the narrative.

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

(a) They have lived here for more than thirty years without an identity, without permits but with ration cards that get their names on voters' lists and enable them to buy grain. Food is more important for survival than identity. "If at the end of the day we can feed our families and go to bed without an aching stomach, we would rather live here than in the fields that gave us no grain," say a group of women in tattered saris when I asked them why they left their beautiful land of green fields and rivers. Wherever they find food, they pitch their tents. (Lost Spring)

(i) The ragpickers have been living there for _____ decades.

(A) three

(B) four

(C) two

(D) five

Correct Answer: (B) four.

Solution: From the passage, it is stated that the ragpickers have been living there for more than thirty years. This corresponds to a period of approximately four decades, making the correct answer (B) four.

 Quick Tip

Focus on numerical details in the text to determine the correct time periods or durations.

(ii) Why do these people have ration cards?

Correct Answer: These people have ration cards to get their names on voters' lists and to buy grain for survival.

Solution: Despite not having an official identity or permits, the ration cards help them gain access to essential resources, ensuring basic survival needs.

 Quick Tip

Understand how basic necessities like food and identity documents shape the lives of marginalized communities.

(iii) What do you infer about their lifestyle from the phrase 'pitch their tents'?

Correct Answer: The phrase indicates that they lead a nomadic and uncertain lifestyle, moving from place to place in search of food and livelihood.

Solution: Their lifestyle is dictated by their need for sustenance. They settle temporarily wherever they can find food, reflecting a lack of stability.

 Quick Tip

Focus on figurative expressions like "pitch their tents" to infer the lifestyle or conditions described in the text.

(iv) In spite of the hardships, they are not willing to go back to their homeland because _____.

Correct Answer: their homeland provided no grain or sustenance.

Solution: These people prioritize survival over identity or comfort. They would rather stay in challenging conditions than return to a place where survival was impossible.

 Quick Tip

Understand the motivations behind the decisions of marginalized groups, especially in relation to survival and basic needs.

(v) The women had a/an _____ approach towards life.

- (A) idealistic
- (B) passive
- (C) indifferent
- (D) practical

Correct Answer: (D) practical.

Solution: The women demonstrate a practical approach to life, prioritizing food and survival over sentimental ties to their homeland.

 Quick Tip

Focus on actions and decisions described in the text to determine the nature of a character's approach to life.

(vi) What does the term 'go to bed without an aching stomach' indicate?

Correct Answer: It indicates having enough food to eat and satisfying their basic need for survival.

Solution: The phrase reflects their primary focus on fulfilling their hunger, highlighting how their struggles center around ensuring that their families are fed.

 Quick Tip

Understanding the hardships and priorities of marginalized groups helps develop empathy and awareness of social realities.

(b) Their spontaneous demonstration, in thousands, around the courthouse was the beginning of their liberation from fear of the British.

The officials felt powerless without Gandhi's cooperation. He helped them regulate the crowd. He was polite and friendly. He was giving them concrete proof that their might, hitherto dreaded and unquestioned, could be challenged by Indians.

The government was baffled. The prosecutor requested the judge to postpone the trial. Apparently, the authorities wished to consult their superiors. (Indigo)

(i) **The result of the demonstration was that _____.**

Correct Answer: The demonstration marked the beginning of the liberation from the fear of the British.

Solution: The spontaneous demonstration of thousands around the courthouse symbolized the unity and strength of the Indian people, challenging the authority of the British and overcoming their fear.

 Quick Tip

Understand the significance of collective action in historical contexts to identify key outcomes of events.

(ii) **The participants of the spontaneous demonstration were:**

- (A) Gandhi's lawyers.
- (B) people of Champaran.
- (C) Indigo landowners.
- (D) Indian soldiers.

Correct Answer: (B) people of Champaran.

Solution: The people of Champaran gathered in thousands to demonstrate their support for Gandhi and to show their resistance to British rule.

 Quick Tip

Identify participants in historical events based on the context provided in the extract.

(iii) **Gandhi cooperated with the British by:**

- (A) not going to the court.
- (B) remaining quiet when he was accused.
- (C) helping to manage the mob of people.
- (D) leaving Champaran for Delhi.

Correct Answer: (C) helping to manage the mob of people.

Solution: Gandhi's cooperation helped the British regulate the crowd peacefully, demonstrating his leadership and the constructive approach of the freedom movement.

 Quick Tip

Focus on Gandhi's actions to understand his principles of nonviolence and cooperation in achieving goals.

(iv) The statement 'Apparently, the authorities wished to consult their superiors' was indicative of the Britisher's _____.

Correct Answer: uncertainty.

Solution: The authorities were baffled and unsure about how to handle the situation, showing that they lacked confidence in dealing with Gandhi's influence and the people's unity.

 Quick Tip

Analyze the behavior of characters in the extract to infer their state of mind and decision-making process.

(v) With reference to the extract, the word 'baffled' most nearly means:

(A) strengthened.

(B) disgusted.

(C) frightened.

(D) confused.

Correct Answer: (D) confused.

Solution: The term 'baffled' describes the British government's state of confusion and lack of preparedness in responding to the unity and resolve of the Indians.

 Quick Tip

Pay attention to context clues in the extract to determine the meanings of challenging words.

(vi) Whose 'might' did this demonstration question?

Correct Answer: The British government's might.

Solution: The demonstration challenged the unquestioned authority and power of the British government, proving that their control could be resisted by a united Indian populace.

 Quick Tip

Unity and peaceful demonstration are powerful tools for challenging oppressive systems and asserting collective strength.

10. Answer any *five* of the following six questions in 40–50 words each: 5x2=10

(i) Does Sophie’s father believe her story of meeting Danny Casey? Discuss. (Going Places)

Solution: Sophie’s father does not believe her story of meeting Danny Casey. He dismisses it as one of her many unrealistic fantasies and even ridicules her dreams, showing his practical and no-nonsense approach to life.

 Quick Tip

Pay attention to character traits and interactions in stories to draw accurate inferences about relationships.

(ii) We miss a thing when we are in fear of losing it. Substantiate this statement with two examples from ‘The Last Lesson,’ how the people in the story suddenly realised how precious their language was to them.

Solution: 1. The villagers regret not learning their language earlier and attend the last lesson as a mark of respect. 2. Franz realizes the importance of his native language only when he is about to lose the opportunity to learn it, showing his newfound appreciation.

 Quick Tip

Focus on emotional turning points in stories to explain characters’ realizations and changes in behavior.

(iii) What did the peddler say in his defence when it was clear that he was not the person the ironmaster thought him to be? (The Rattrap)

Solution: The peddler said that he never pretended to be the ironmaster’s old acquaintance. It was the ironmaster’s assumption, and he simply played along to take advantage of the situation.

 Quick Tip

Observe the use of irony in characters’ interactions to understand their motives and behavior.

(iv) What does ‘The God That Failed’ refer to? (Poets and Pancakes)

Solution: ‘The God That Failed’ refers to the Communist ideology, which initially promised equality and justice but ultimately failed to deliver, leaving many disillusioned.

 Quick Tip

Understanding historical and ideological contexts helps interpret symbolic references in texts.

(v) What according to Umberto Eco is the belief that most journalists and publishers have? (The Interview)

Solution: Umberto Eco believes that journalists and publishers consider his essays boring and his novels entertaining, although he asserts that both forms of his writing carry depth and complexity.

 Quick Tip

Analyze authors’ perspectives to understand how they challenge stereotypes or common perceptions about their work.

(vi) It is said that the ‘Face is a mirror of one’s emotions.’ Why did the poet ‘smile and smile’? (My Mother at Sixty-six)

Solution: The poet ‘smiled and smiled’ to hide her fear and sorrow of losing her aging mother. It was an attempt to reassure herself and her mother while concealing her emotional turmoil.

 Quick Tip

Look for emotional cues in the poem to understand how the poet conveys complex feelings through subtle expressions.

11. Answer any *two* of the following three questions in 40–50 words each: 2x2=4

(i) What confusion does the Dewan have when the Tiger King broaches the topic of his marriage? (The Tiger King)

Solution: The Dewan is confused about the Tiger King’s demand to marry a girl whose father owns many tigers. This unusual request reflects the king’s obsession with fulfilling the prophecy.

 Quick Tip

Pay attention to how characters’ unique demands or behaviors reflect underlying themes in the story.

(ii) “My Antarctic experience was full of such epiphanies,” says Tishani Doshi. Which experience does she consider the best and why? (Journey to the End of the Earth)

Solution: Tishani Doshi considers the sight of the vast icebergs and pristine wilderness as her best experience. It made her realize the fragility of the planet and the importance of environmental conservation.

 Quick Tip

Identify key moments in travel narratives that evoke personal realizations or broader environmental concerns.

(iii) Zitkala-Sa says, “Eating by formula wasn’t the hardest trial in that first day.” What does she mean by ‘Eating by formula’? (Memories of Childhood)

Solution: ‘Eating by formula’ refers to the strict table manners and rules imposed on Zitkala-Sa at the boarding school, which contrasted sharply with her free and natural way of life.

 Quick Tip

Analyze cultural contrasts in autobiographical texts to understand characters’ struggles and adaptations.

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

(a) ‘A Thing of Beauty’ and ‘A Roadside Stand’ are poetic expressions of human relationships. The first engages with nature while the latter highlights the individual’s place in society. Describe with reference to the two poems.

Solution: ‘A Thing of Beauty’ celebrates the eternal bond between humans and nature, showcasing how nature’s beauty offers solace and removes despair. It emphasizes the rejuvenating and life-affirming aspects of nature, which uplift the human spirit.

On the other hand, ‘A Roadside Stand’ highlights the societal disparity and the struggles of marginalized individuals. It focuses on the insensitivity of urban society towards rural people, portraying their yearning for dignity and fairness. While one poem speaks of the harmony between humans and nature, the other underscores the disconnection within human society, making both works profound reflections on relationships.

 Quick Tip

Compare themes by identifying commonalities and contrasts in how poets explore relationships, emotions, or societal issues.

(b) Rajkumar Shukla in ‘Indigo’ decided to take up the cause of the peasants and raise his voice against injustice. The bangle makers were a stark contrast

and accepted their plight of oppression because of tradition and caste. Write a comparative analysis of the two different attitudes towards unjust domination.

Solution: Rajkumar Shukla's determination to fight for the rights of the peasants in 'Indigo' demonstrates courage and resistance against unjust domination. His persistence led to Gandhi's involvement, which eventually empowered the peasants and set a precedent for non-violent protest.

In contrast, the bangle makers in Firozabad, shackled by caste and tradition, accepted their suffering without resistance. Their resignation to oppression reflects how deep-rooted societal norms can suppress aspirations for change.

The two attitudes present a stark comparison: one of defiance and action, and the other of passive acceptance. Together, they underscore the varied responses to systemic injustice within society.

 Quick Tip

Highlight key differences in attitudes by focusing on context, actions, and outcomes in the narratives.

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

(a) Dr. Sadao is disturbed and in a dilemma since he has decided to help the enemy soldier. Describe his conflict and the challenges faced in the form of a diary entry.

Solution: Diary Entry: Date: [Insert Date] Today was one of the most challenging days of my life. I found myself caught between my duty as a doctor and my loyalty to my country. Treating the enemy soldier was the only humane option, yet I am haunted by the thought of aiding an enemy. My conscience cannot ignore the Hippocratic Oath, which binds me to save lives, but my patriotism makes me question my actions. The pressure from society, my wife's concerns, and the fear of being labeled a traitor have added to my turmoil. I only hope my decision will not have dire consequences for my family. - **Dr. Sadao**

 Quick Tip

When writing diary entries, focus on personal reflections, emotional conflicts, and the resolution of internal dilemmas.

(b) In the story 'The Third Level,' reality and fantasy are interwoven. Justify.

Solution: In 'The Third Level,' Jack Finney blends reality with fantasy to create a nostalgic escape. The protagonist, Charley, discovers the third level of Grand Central Station, which serves as a portal to the past. While Charley's experiences suggest a fantastical dimension, the story also captures his longing to escape the stress of modern life. The blend of fantasy and reality is evident when Charley receives a letter from his friend, supposedly sent from the third level. This interplay between real and imagined events highlights the protagonist's desire for solace in a simpler time.

 Quick Tip

Identify how the narrative uses symbolism and surreal elements to merge reality with fantasy.
