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FOR MEGHALAYA CLASS 10 PREPARATION

MBOSE Class 10 Question Bank 2027 English

EXAM	YEAR	TYPE	SUBJECT
Meghalaya Class 10	2027	Question Bank	English

Section -A
MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (MCQs) (1 MARK EACH)

In the Board Examination, there will be 14 MCQs from the English Reader and the Supplementary Reader.

A Letter to God
- G. L. Fuentes

1. Why did Lencho's field turn white?

A. It was a cotton field
B. It was submerged in ocean water
C. It was covered with hailstones
D. It was submerged in flood
Ans: C. It was covered with hailstones

2. What destroyed Lencho's fields?

A. Heavy rainfall
B. Hailstorm
C. Landslide
D. Flood
Ans: B. Hailstorm

3. "A plague of locusts would have left more than this". What does the word 'locusts' refer to?

A. Flight of birds
B. A host of sparrows
C. A swarm of bees
D. Insects which fly in big groups and destroy crops
Ans: D. Insects which fly in big groups and destroy crops

4. What is the main theme of the story "A Letter to God"?

A. Faith and belief
B. Poverty and struggle
C. Nature and beauty
D. Love and relationship
Ans: A. Faith and belief

5. How much money did Lencho ask for?

A. A hundred pesos
B. One thousand pesos
C. Ten pesos
D. Five hundred pesos
Ans: A. A hundred pesos

6. Who is the author of the lesson "A Letter to God"?

A. Roald Dahi
B. J. K. Rowling
C. William Shakespeare
D. G.L.Fuentes
Ans: D. G.L.Fuentes

7. The postmaster's attitude changes from amusement to deep concern after reading Lencho's letter. Which action best shows his concern for Lencho's unwavering faith?

A. He explained that natural disasters could not be prevented.
B. He ignored the letter because he could not help.
C. He arranged money for Lencho and sent it anonymously.
D. He advised Lencho to seek help from the local authorities.
Ans: C. He arranged money for Lencho and sent it anonymously.

8. Lencho is described as an "ox of a man" who "still knew how to write." What does this contrast primarily reveal about his character?

A. He combined physical strength with literacy and expressed his faith through writing.
B. He wrote the letter simply to pass the time.
C. He preferred writing to working in the fields.
D. He was a scholar who farmed only for pleasure.
Ans: A. He combined physical strength with literacy and expressed his faith through writing.

9. The postmaster answered Lencho's letter because he did not want to "shake the writer's faith." What does this reveal about his character?

A. He shared Lencho's religious beliefs.
B. He was empathetic and respected sincere faith.
C. He wanted to continue the joke.
D. He feared God's punishment.
Ans: B. He was empathetic and respected sincere faith.

10. Lencho showed "not the slightest surprise" on receiving the money. What does this reveal about him?

A. His faith made the miracle seem certain.
B. He already knew the money was coming.
C. He did not understand where the money came from.
D. He was disappointed by the amount.
Ans: A. His faith made the miracle seem certain.

11. What is ironic about Lencho's second letter to God?

A. God replies to his letter.
B. Another hailstorm follows.
C. He accuses his helpers of theft.
D. He asks for more money than he needs.
Ans: C. He accuses his helpers of theft.

12. How does the hailstorm change the tone of the story A Letter to God?

A. From joy to celebration.
B. From fear to relief.
C. From peace to confusion.
D. From hope to despair.
Ans: D. From hope to despair.

13. What is ironic about the postmaster's satisfaction after helping Lencho?

A. Lencho thanks the postmaster for his kindness.
B. Lencho does not need the money after all.
C. He calls the people who helped him "a bunch of crooks."
D. The postmaster sends more money than requested.
Ans: C. He calls the people who helped him "a bunch of crooks."

14. If the postmaster had ignored Lencho's letter, what would most likely have happened?

A. Lencho's faith in God would have been shaken.
B. Lencho would have become rich another way.
C. The hailstorm would have been reversed.
D. The villagers would have punished the postmaster.
Ans: A. Lencho's faith in God would have been shaken.

15. What did Lencho believe about the post office employees?

A. They were a bunch of crooks.
B. They were honest workers.
C. They were kind helpers.
D. They were hardworking officials.

Ans: A. They were a bunch of crooks.

Fire and Ice
- Robert Frost

16. According to Robert Frost, what are the two forces that can destroy the world?

A. Wind and water
B. Fire and ice
C. Earth and air
D. Sun and moon

Ans: B. Fire and ice

17. Which emotion is symbolised by ice in the poem 'Fire and Ice'?

A. Love
B. Happiness
C. Hatred and indifference
D. Excitement

Ans: C. Hatred and indifference

18. What is the central theme of the poem "Fire and Ice"?

A. Beauty of nature
B. Human emotions and destruction
C. Love and friendship
D. Power of science

Ans: B. Human emotions and destruction

19. What does Robert Frost mean by saying that ice "would suffice"?

A. Ice is weak
B. Ice cannot destroy
C. Ice alone is enough to destroy the world
D. Ice is better than fire

Ans: C. Ice alone is enough to destroy the world

20. Which real-life situation best shows the idea of fire as used in the poem 'Fire and Ice'?

A. Helping a neighbour
B. Enjoying a holiday
C. Forgiving an enemy
D. Greed leading to corruption

Ans: D. Greed leading to corruption

21. Why does Robert Frost support those who favour fire?

A. He has experienced the power of desire
B. He prefers warm weather
C. He dislikes ice
D. He fears winter

Ans: A. He has experienced the power of desire

22. What conclusion does Robert Frost reach about hatred?

A. It can never cause harm
B. It is less dangerous than desire
C. It is also capable of destroying the world
D. It disappears with time

Ans: C. It is also capable of destroying the world

23. Which lesson from the poem 'Fire and Ice' can help maintain harmony in society?

A. Pursue every desire without limits
B. Ignore the feelings of others
C. Avoid expressing emotions
D. Control destructive emotions like hatred

Ans: D. Control destructive emotions like hatred

24. What does the poem 'Fire and Ice' suggest about human emotions?

A. They are always beneficial
B. They have no effect on society
C. Uncontrolled emotions can be destructive
D. Only positive emotions influence actions

Ans: C. Uncontrolled emotions can be destructive

25. If the poet were writing the poem today, which situation best reflects the destructive power of both "fire" and "ice"?

A. Scientific discoveries
B. Social media conflicts driven by hatred and greed
C. Environmental conservation efforts
D. Cultural festivals

Ans: B. Social media conflicts driven by hatred and greed

His First Flight
- Liam O'Flaherty

26. In the story His First Flight, why did the young seagull hesitate to fly from the ledge?

A. He suffers from physical injury
B. He fears that his wings would not support flight
C. He lacks interest in flying
D. His parents pamper him

Ans: B. He fears that his wings would not support flight

27. While the young seagull remained in his ledge, what activity were his siblings engaged in?

A. Learning to swim
B. Searching for shelter
C. Fighting for food
D. Practising flight in the air

Ans: D. Practising flight in the air

28. What condition increased the young seagull's desperation to attempt flight?

A. Sudden storm
B. Prolonged hunger
C. Darkness
D. Extreme thirst

Ans : B. Prolonged hunger

29. What action by the mother seagull triggered the young seagull's first flight?

A. A loud warning cry
B. Pushing from behind
C. Offering a piece of fish just out of reach
D. Flying away suddenly

Ans : C. Offering a piece of fish just out of reach

30. How did the young seagull's movement change after the initial fall?

A. Wings stopped moving
B. Body remained stiff
C. Movement became uncontrolled
D. Wings spread naturally and supported flight

Ans : D. Wings spread naturally and supported flight

31. Which feeling best describes the young seagull after learning to fly?

A. Regret
B. Joy and confidence
C. Fear
D. Confusion

Ans : B. Joy and confidence

32. What does the young seagull's hesitation primarily reflect?

A. Fear of failure despite potential
B. Lack of ability
C. Disobedience
D. Physical weakness

Ans: A. Fear of failure despite potential

33. In the story "His First Flight", if the mother seagull had fed the young seagull directly on the ledge instead of tricking him, how would the narrative likely change?

A. He would have immediately learned to fly the next day
B. He would have left his family to join another flock
C. His fear of flying would have remained unresolved
D. He would have grown larger and flown automatically without fear

Ans: C. His fear of flying would have remained unresolved

34. Why did the young seagull feel the sun's heat so intensely?

A. The weather was unusually hot that day.
B. He had an illness that made him sensitive to heat.
C. His empty stomach made him physically weaker and more sensitive.
D. He was standing too close to the edge.

Ans:C. His empty stomach made him physically weaker and more sensitive.

35. What emotion best describes the young seagull's state during the twenty-four hours before his flight?

A. Indifference
B. Rage
C. Total despair and helplessness
D. Excitement

Ans: C. Total despair and helplessness

36. What was the young seagull's mother carrying when she swooped near him?

A. A twig for a new nest
B. A piece of fish
C. A drop of fresh water
D. Seaweed to make a soft bed

Ans: B. A piece of fish

37. How did the family's attitude toward the young seagull shift after he finally landed on the water?

A. They continued to ignore him and flew away
B. They punished him for taking so long to fly
C. They praised him and offered him scraps of dog-fish
D. They demanded he fly back to the ledge immediately

Ans: C. They praised him and offered him scraps of dog-fish

38. What happened to the young seagull's legs as he tried to float on the green sea?

A. They struck the bottom of the shallow water
B. They became completely paralyzed by the freezing temperature
C. They sank into it, and he screamed with fright
D. They instantly webbed out and allowed him to swim smoothly

Ans: C. They sank into it, and he screamed with fright

39. What lesson does the story convey about the relationship between fear and motivation?

A. Fear is permanent and cannot be overcome by motivation
B. Motivation only works when it comes from an external source
C. Strong motivation can overpower even the most paralyzing fears
D. Fear is a myth that disappears on its own without motivation

Ans: C. Strong motivation can overpower even the most paralyzing fears

40. In the context of the story His First Flight, what does the "green sea" symbolize?

A. An insurmountable obstacle that brings death and danger
B. The comfort and safety of the original ledge
C. The vast, intimidating, yet ultimately welcoming world of new possibilities
D. A punishment for his hesitation and lack of courage

Ans: C. The vast, intimidating, yet ultimately welcoming world of new possibilities

The Black Aeroplane - Frederick Forsyth

41. Why did the narrator of 'The Black Aeroplane' decide to fly through the storm instead of turning back?

A. To reach home without delay
B. Due to lack of fuel
C. Due to unawareness of the storm
D. Due to instructions from the control centre

Ans: A. To reach home without delay

42. What major danger did the narrator of 'The Black Aeroplane' face while flying through the storm?

A. Engine failure
B. Bird attack
C. Losing direction due to failure of navigation instruments
D. Fire in the plane

Ans: C. Losing direction due to failure of navigation instruments

43. Why did the pilot of the old Dakota immediately follow the other aeroplane after seeing it?

A. It appeared capable of guiding him to safety.
B. The pilot was recognised.
C. Instructions were received to follow.
D. Out of curiosity.

Ans: A. It appeared capable of guiding him to safety.

44. What information was given by the woman in the control centre to the narrator of 'The Black Aeroplane'?

A. Another plane had helped
B. There was no other aeroplane in the sky that night
C. The storm was not strong
D. A mistake had been made

Ans: B. There was no other aeroplane in the sky that night

45. What does the storm symbolize in 'The Black Aeroplane'?

A. Peace
B. Happiness
C. Success
D. Danger and confusion

Ans: D. Danger and confusion

46. Which statement best conveys the message of 'The Black Aeroplane'?

A. Overconfidence can be risky and help can come unexpectedly.
B. Flying should always be avoided.
C. Technology is always reliable.
D. Storms are harmless.

Ans: A. Overconfidence can be risky and help can come unexpectedly.

47. Which decision of the narrator of 'The Black Aeroplane' shows that emotions influenced his judgement?

A. Following the runway lights
B. Checking the fuel level
C. Contacting the control centre
D. Flying through the storm to reach home early

Ans: D. Flying through the storm to reach home early

48. Which action of the mysterious pilot helped the narrator of 'The Black Aeroplane' most?

A. Giving radio instructions
B. Flying ahead and waving to the narrator to follow him
C. Landing beside the narrator
D. Contacting the control centre

Ans: B. Flying ahead and waving to the narrator to follow him

49. If the narrator of 'The Black Aeroplane' had decided to turn back on seeing the storm, the story would most likely have

A. ended at another airport
B. become more dangerous
C. resulted in an accident
D. ended without the mysterious incident

Ans: D. ended without the mysterious incident

50. Which element of the story 'The Black Aeroplane' makes it different from a realistic adventure story?

A. The accurate description of flying
B. The airport setting
C. The unexplained appearance of the black aeroplane
D. The weather forecast

Ans: C. The unexplained appearance of the black aeroplane

51. According to ‘The Black Aeroplane’, which value is most important for a pilot when facing an unexpected emergency?

A. Patience and presence of mind
B. Desire for adventure
C. Pride in one’s skills
D. Fear of failure

Ans: A. Patience and presence of mind

52. Why does the author of ‘The Black Aeroplane’ leave the identity of the black aeroplane unexplained?

A. To create curiosity and encourage different interpretations
B. Because he forgot to complete the story
C. To prove that ghosts exist
D. To describe aviation technology

Ans: A. To create curiosity and encourage different interpretations

53. Which situation from the story ‘The Black Aeroplane’ best shows that confidence should be balanced with good judgement?

A. The narrator checks the weather before take-off
B. The narrator lands safely at the airport
C. The narrator flies into the storm despite recognising the danger
D. The narrator thanks the woman at the control centre

Ans: C. The narrator flies into the storm despite recognising the danger

54. Suppose the pilot of the old Dakota had ignored the signals from the black aeroplane. What would most likely have happened?

A. He might have remained lost inside the storm.
B. He would have reached home more quickly.
C. The storm would have disappeared immediately.
D. The control centre would have guided him through the radio.

Ans: A. He might have remained lost inside the storm.

55. Which lesson from ‘The Black Aeroplane’ is most relevant to real life?

A. Every mystery has a scientific explanation.
B. Difficult situations require calm thinking, and help may come unexpectedly.
C. Taking risks always leads to success.
D. Technology never fails.

Ans: B. Difficult situations require calm thinking, and help may come unexpectedly.

The Ball Poem

- John Berryman

56. Why is the boy standing and staring after losing his ball?

A. He is waiting for help
B. He is unable to understand what has happened
C. He is looking for another ball
D. He wants to jump into the water

Ans: B. He is unable to understand what has happened

57. What does the ball symbolise in 'The Ball Poem'?

A. Sports
B. Childhood joy and possessions
C. Wealth
D. Friendship

Ans: B. Childhood joy and possessions

58. Why does the poet not offer the boy another ball?

A. He has no money
B. The boy does not want it
C. The boy must learn about loss
D. The shop is closed

Ans: C. The boy must learn about loss

59. What lesson does the boy learn from losing the ball?

A. Fear
B. Anger
C. Hatred
D. Responsibility and acceptance

Ans: D. Responsibility and acceptance

60. What does "Money is external" mean in 'The Ball Poem'?

A. Money cannot replace emotional loss
B. Money is useless
C. Money brings happiness
D. Money controls people

Ans: A. Money cannot replace emotional loss

61. In 'The Ball Poem', what broader truth of life does the loss of the ball represent?

A. Success comes easily
B. Childhood should be carefree
C. Everyone experiences loss at some point
D. Money solves all problems

Ans: C. Everyone experiences loss at some point

62. Which value is most strongly highlighted in 'The Ball Poem'?

A. Acceptance of life's losses
B. Competition
C. Materialism
D. Adventure

Ans: A. Acceptance of life's losses

63. In 'The Ball Poem', what does the phrase "epistemology of loss" mean?

A. Learning through books
B. Understanding the nature of loss through experience
C. Studying history
D. Gaining wealth through hard work

Ans: B. Understanding the nature of loss through experience

64. In 'The Ball Poem', the loss of the ball marks the beginning of the boy's:

A. Academic success
B. Athletic career
C. Emotional maturity
D. Financial independence

Ans: C. Emotional maturity

65. What is the poet's main purpose in describing the boy's loss in 'The Ball Poem'?

A. To entertain readers with a story
B. To encourage children to play carefully
C. To criticise children's behaviour
D. To teach an important lesson about coping with loss

Ans: D. To teach an important lesson about coping with loss

From the Diary of Anne Frank
- Anne Frank

66. Why did Anne decide to write a diary?

A. She wanted to become a famous writer
B. Her teacher told her to write one
C. She felt she had no true friend to confide in
D. She wanted to record history for the world

Ans : C. She felt she had no true friend to confide in

67. Why did Anne give a brief sketch of her life before starting her diary entries?

A. She wanted to show off her writing skills
B. She wanted to give context to her stories to "Kitty"
C. Her father insisted she does so
D. She wanted to record her family history for the government

Ans : B. She wanted to give context to her stories to "Kitty"

68. What does the celebration of Anne's birthday in 1942 reveal about her relationship with her grandmother?

A. She had forgotten her grandmother
B. She blamed her grandmother for her surgery
C. She held deep affection and continued to miss her
D. She only cared about her own birthday presents

Ans : C. She held deep affection and continued to miss her

69. Anne calls her teachers the "most unpredictable creatures on earth." This suggests that:

A. Teachers often change their minds about homework
B. It is impossible to tell who will pass or fail based on their decisions
C. Teachers are not humans and act like animals
D. Students can never please their teachers no matter how hard they try

Ans: B. It is impossible to tell who will pass or fail based on their decisions

70. Why was Mr. Keesing annoyed with Anne?

A. She was weak in Math
B. She was talkative in class
C. She was always late to school
D. She didn't do her homework

Ans : B. She was talkative in class

71. How did Anne justify her talkative nature in her essay?

A. She said it was a student's right
B. She argued it was an inherited trait from her mother
C. She claimed it helped her think better
D. She said she was bored in class

Ans : B. She argued it was an inherited trait from her mother

72. How does Anne describe her relationship with her father, Otto Frank?

A. She found him to be too strict and distant from her life
B. They had a purely professional relationship with no emotional depth
C. She considered him the most adorable father and had a special bond with him
D. She was closer to her father but often felt he favored her sister, Margot

Ans: C. She considered him the most adorable father and had a special bond with him

73. Anne named her diary "Kitty." What does this creative choice reveal about her approach to writing?

A. She considered it just an ordinary book with no special meaning
B. She was just following a trend among her classmates
C. She treated her diary as a living, breathing confidante and an imaginary friend
D. She wanted to hide the true identity of her diary in case it was found

Ans: C. She treated her diary as a living, breathing confidante and an imaginary friend

74. Before going into hiding, where did the Frank family originally live?

A. Frankfurt, Germany
B. Berlin, Germany
C. Vienna, Austria
D. London, United Kingdom

Ans: A. Frankfurt, Germany

75. On which birthday did Anne receive the diary that became the famous chronicle of her life?

A. Eleventh
B. Thirteenth
C. Fifteenth
D. Twelfth

Ans: B. Thirteenth

76. What does Anne's reaction to the punishment assignments reveal about her personality?

A. She was arrogant
B. She became discouraged
C. She accepted the challenge with humour and creativity
D. She ignored the task

Ans: C. She accepted the challenge with humour and creativity

77. Why did Mr. Keesing finally stop punishing Anne?

A. Because Anne apologized
B. Because he was transferred
C. Because he appreciated Anne's witty and creative responses
D. Because Anne stopped talking completely

Ans: C. Because he appreciated Anne's witty and creative responses

78. Anne Frank’s diary helps readers understand that adolescents often

A. Avoid expressing emotions
B. Face emotional conflicts and seek someone to trust
C. Dislike learning
D. Prefer being alone always

Ans: B. Face emotional conflicts and seek someone to trust

79. If Anne lived in today's digital world, she would most likely express herself through—

A. A personal blog or digital journal
B. Business reports
C. News bulletins
D. Advertisements
Ans: A. A personal blog or digital journal

80. If Anne were to advise today's students about expressing emotions, what would she most likely suggest?

A. Keep feelings hidden
B. Find a trustworthy way to express thoughts honestly
C. Ignore emotions
D. Never write about personal experiences
Ans: B. Find a trustworthy way to express thoughts honestly

Amanda!
- Robin Klein

81. In the poem 'Amanda!', the repetition of the word "Amanda" refers to:

A. A rhyme scheme
B. The speaker looking for Amanda
C. The speaker's frustration
D. Alliteration
Ans: C. The speaker's frustration

82. What is Amanda doing as a mermaid in her imagination?

A. Drifting blissfully
B. Swimming quickly
C. Catching fish
D. Playing in the water
Ans: A. Drifting blissfully

83. What colour is the sea described in 'Amanda!'?

A. Blue
B. Black
C. Emerald
D. Grey
Ans: C. Emerald

84. Who is Rapunzel in the poem 'Amanda!'?

A. Spirit
B. A fairy tale character
C. Witch
D. Mermaid
Ans: B. A fairy tale character

85. Why does Amanda imagine herself as an orphan?

A. She wants to leave her home forever
B. She wishes to live without constant instructions
C. She has no friends
D. She enjoys travelling alone
Ans: B. She wishes to live without constant instructions

86. What does Amanda's daydreaming reveal about her character?

A. She is lazy and careless
B. She enjoys disobeying others
C. She dislikes school
D. She longs for freedom and peace
Ans: D. She longs for freedom and peace

87. What does the poem 'Amanda!' suggest about the way adults should treat children?

A. They should constantly control them
B. They should ignore their feelings
C. They should understand their emotions and give them space
D. They should never correct them

Ans: C. They should understand their emotions and give them space

88. Which quality can help prevent the misunderstanding shown in 'Amanda!'?

A. Strict discipline alone
B. Silence
C. Competition
D. Empathy and effective communication

Ans: D. Empathy and effective communication

89. If Amanda openly shared her feelings with her mother, what would most likely happen?

A. Their relationship might improve through better understanding
B. Amanda would stop imagining things completely
C. Her mother would become stricter
D. Amanda would leave home

Ans: A. Their relationship might improve through better understanding

90. Which modern situation best reflects Amanda's feelings in 'Amanda!'?

A. A child being encouraged to explore new hobbies
B. A child feeling stressed by constant monitoring and instructions
C. A child enjoying a family vacation
D. A child winning a school competition

Ans: B. A child feeling stressed by constant monitoring and instructions

Tea From Assam
-Arup Kumar Datta

91. What was the main purpose of Rajvir's visit to Assam?

A. To meet Pranjol's family
B. To attend a conference
C. To research tea farming
D. To participate in a festival

Ans : A. To meet Pranjol's family

92. Why are tea plants pruned regularly?

A. To control pests
B. To improve the taste of tea
C. To help the plants grow taller
D. To keep them short and bushy at a convenient height for plucking

Ans : D. To keep them short and bushy at a convenient height for plucking

93. What does the phrase "a sea of tea bushes" suggest about the tea gardens

A. The tea plants were flooded with water
B. The gardens were very vast and spread out
C. The tea bushes grew under the sea
D. The gardens were surrounded by lakes

Ans : B. The gardens were very vast and spread out

94. According to Rajvir, how old are the earliest records of tea drinking?

A. About 6000 years old
B. About 1600 years old
C. About 4700 years old
D. About 2700 years old

Ans : C. About 4700 years old

95. What does Rajvir's conversation with Pranjol show about him?

A. He enjoys arguing
B. He likes sharing knowledge
C. He prefers silence
D. He dislikes travelling

Ans : B. He likes sharing knowledge

96. What lesson can readers learn from Rajvir's curiosity?

A. Curiosity helps people gain knowledge
B. Curiosity leads to unnecessary trouble
C. Curiosity wastes time
D. Curiosity makes travel boring

Ans : A. Curiosity helps people gain knowledge

97. What was Pranjol doing while Rajvir was eagerly looking at the scenery and discussing tea?

A. Sleeping through the journey
B. Reading a detective book
C. Studying his school textbooks
D. Listening to music on headphones

Ans: B. Reading a detective book

98. How did Rajvir react to the magnificent view of the tea gardens as they entered the Dhekiabari Tea Estate?

A. He found it monotonous and boring
B. He thought the tea bushes looked like golden wheat fields
C. He was confused by the agricultural process
D. He was mesmerized by the beautiful view

Ans: D. He was mesmerized by the beautiful view

99. At which railway station did Pranjol and Rajvir get off?

A. Guwahati Junction
B. Dibrugarh Town
C. Mariani Junction
D. Tinsukia Junction

Ans: C. Mariani Junction

100. What was the name of the tea estate managed by Pranjol's father?

A. Dhekiabari Tea Estate
B. Jia Bharali Tea Estate
C. Halmari Tea Estate
D. Monabarie Tea Estate

Ans: A. Dhekiabari Tea Estate

101. According to the Chinese legend, what was the emperor doing when tea was discovered?

A. Making coffee
B. Preparing soup
C. Boiling water
D. Cooking food

Ans: C. Boiling water

102. In the Buddhist ascetic legend, why did the ascetic cut off his eyelids?

A. To offer them to the gods
B. To avoid falling asleep during meditation
C. To see the future
D. To test his pain tolerance

Ans: B. To avoid falling asleep during meditation

103. How many tea plants sprang out of the ascetic's eyelids in the Buddhist legend?

A. Ten
B. Five
C. Seven
D. Eight

Ans: A. Ten

104 How was tea treated when it was first introduced in Europe in the sixteenth century?

A. As a refreshing morning beverage
B. As a luxury item reserved for royalty
C. An alcoholic drink for social gatherings
D. More as medicine than as a beverage

Ans: D. More as medicine than as a beverage

105. How did Rajvir come to know so many fascinating details and legends about tea?

A. He lived in Assam before the trip
B. He had read extensively about it before the journey
C. His father worked as a tea garden manager
D. He was taught by Pranjol on the train

Ans: B. He had read extensively about it before the journey

THE TREES
- Adrienne Rich

106. In the poem, “The Trees”, where are the trees currently located?

A. In a deep forest
B. In a public park
C. In a botanical garden
D. Inside the poet's house

Ans : D. Inside the poet's house

107. In the poem, “The Trees”, what are the roots busy doing all night?

A. Absorbing nutrients
B. Growing deeper into the earth
C. Working to free themselves from the veranda floor
D. Communicating with other trees

Ans : C. Working to free themselves from the veranda floor

108. What do the trees inside the house symbolize in the context of the poem, “The Trees”?

A. The beauty of nature in urban spaces
B. Women confined within domestic spheres, seeking liberation
C. The impact of deforestation on our daily lives
D. The growth of houseplants in modern homes

Ans: B. Women confined within domestic spheres, seeking liberation

109. Which poetic device is used in the line "The trees inside are moving out into the forest"?

A. Personification
B. Metaphor
C. Simile
D. Alliteration

Ans: A. Personification

110. What does the poet compare the moon to in the last stanza of the poem, “The Trees”?

A. A mirror
B. A lamp
C. A silver coin
D. A star

Ans: A. A mirror

111. Which of the following would be the most suitable alternate title for the poem, “The Trees”?

A. The Silent Forest
B. The Journey to Freedom
C. The Lonely House
D. The Bright Moon

Ans: B. The Journey to Freedom

112. In the poem, “The Trees”, what does the poet "hardly mention" in her letters?

A. Her own name
B. The departure of the trees
C. The weather outside
D. Her childhood memories

Ans : B. The departure of the trees

113. Why does the moon appear "broken" in the final stanza of the poem, “The Trees”?

A. Because it is a crescent moon
B. Because the window glass is cracked
C. Because the poet is crying
D. Because its light is filtered through the crown of the oak tree

Ans: D. Because its light is filtered through the crown of the oak tree

114. In the poem, “The Trees”, what is the state of the forest before the trees move out?

A. It was filled with small shrubs and weeds
B. It was burning in a wildfire
C. It was completely empty of trees
D. It was a dense, dark jungle

Ans: C. It was completely empty of trees

115. Why does the poet, in the poem “The Trees”, say the forest has been empty all these days?

A. Because the trees were cut down
B. Because the trees had been confined indoors
C. Because there was a forest fire
D. Because it was winter

Ans: B. Because the trees had been confined indoors

Madam Rides the Bus
- Vallikkannan

116. What gradually developed in Valli's mind?

A. A desire to visit relatives
B. A wish to own a toy
C. A strong desire to ride the bus
D. A plan to leave the village
Ans: C. A strong desire to ride the bus

117. How did Valli learn about the distance and fare of the bus journey?

A. By reading a travel guide
B. By secretly listening to conversations
C. By asking her mother directly
D. By speaking to the driver
Ans: B. By secretly listening to conversations

118. What quality of Valli is shown when she avoids buying toys and peppermints?

A. Self-control and determination
B. Greed
C. Carelessness
D. Fear of her mother
Ans: A. Self-control and determination

119. Why did Valli choose to travel in the afternoon?

A. The bus was less crowded
B. Her mother usually took a nap at that time
C. The fare was cheaper
D. She wanted to meet her friends
Ans: B. Her mother usually took a nap at that time

120. What was the fare for Valli's one-way bus journey?

A. Thirty paise
B. Sixty paise
C. One rupee
D. One rupee and twenty paise
Ans: A. Thirty paise

121. What does the conductor's behaviour towards Valli reveal?

A. He was impatient with children
B. He was kind, cheerful, and encouraging
C. He wanted to make fun of her
D. He was unwilling to help passengers
Ans: B. He was kind, cheerful, and encouraging

122. What impressed Valli the most during the journey to the town?

A. The busy market
B. The beautiful scenery outside the bus
C. The large buildings
D. The railway station

Ans: B. The beautiful scenery outside the bus

123. Why did Valli laugh when she saw the young cow running in front of the bus?

A. The cow looked funny as it ran playfully
B. The passengers were laughing at it
C. The driver made a joke about it
D. She had seen the cow before

Ans: A. The cow looked funny as it ran playfully

124. Why did Valli refuse to get off the bus in the town?

A. She was afraid of getting lost
B. She did not have enough money to return
C. She had planned only a bus ride to the town and back
D. She was feeling unwell

Ans: C. She had planned only a bus ride to the town and back.

125. What change occurs in Valli after seeing the dead cow?

A. She becomes angry
B. She becomes silent and thoughtful
C. She blames the driver
D. She laughs again

Ans: B. She becomes silent and thoughtful

126. Why does Valli keep her journey a secret from her mother?

A. She wants to surprise her later
B. She knows her mother would not allow her to travel alone
C. She forgets to tell her
D. She is angry with her mother

Ans: B. She knows her mother would not allow her to travel alone

127. Which statement best describes Valli's character at the end of the story?

A. She remains carefree and childish
B. She becomes more mature after her experience
C. She regrets travelling alone
D. She decides never to ride a bus again

Ans: B. She becomes more mature after her experience

128. What message does the story convey through Valli's experience?

A. Children should never travel alone
B. Experience helps people understand life better
C. Wealth is necessary for happiness
D. Travelling is always risky

Ans: B. Experience helps people understand life better

129. Valli's secret journey can best be described as

A. an act of rebellion against her mother
B. a search for adventure without responsibility
C. a step towards self-discovery and independence
D. an escape from village life

Ans: C. a step towards self-discovery and independence

130. Valli's bus ride symbolically represents

A. modernisation of villages
B. a journey from innocence towards awareness
C. economic development
D. public transportation problems

Ans: B. a journey from innocence towards awareness

The Tale of Custard the Dragon
– Ogden Nash

131. Where did Belinda live?

A. A big bungalow
B. A red colour flat
C. A little white house
D. A yellow hut

Ans : C. A little white house

132. Which animal was nicknamed 'Ink'?

A. The grey mouse
B. The little black kitten
C. The little yellow dog
D. The dragon

Ans : B. The little black kitten

133. Why was the dragon called "cowardly"?

A. He could not fly
B. He was small
C. He always cried for a safe cage
D. He was afraid of mice

Ans : C. He always cried for a safe cage

134. What did Custard the dragon cry for?

A. More food
B. A nice safe cage
C. Freedom to fly away
D. Weapons to fight the pirate

Ans : B. A nice safe cage

135. The pets used to tease Custard for being a coward, but they all get terrified when the pirate shows up. What does this tell us about bravery?

A. People who brag about being brave are always the strongest.
B. Real bravery is only shown when there is real danger, not by teasing others.
C. Teasing people is a good way to make them brave.
D. Everyone enjoys a dangerous situation.

Ans: B. Real bravery is only shown when there is real danger, not by teasing others

136. What specific detail about the pirate's weapons shows that he is completely ready to fight?

A. He has a wooden leg.
B. He has a black beard.
C. He is carrying a shield on his back
D. He is holding pistols in both hands and a cutlass (sword) in his teeth.

Ans: D. He is holding pistols in both hands and a cutlass (sword) in his teeth.

137. What did the pirate do to prepare himself for the fight?

A. Gulped some liquor
B. Had some breath
C. Shouted a war cry
D. Made up his mind

Ans. A. Gulped some liquor

138. Why does the poet describe the pirate as "meaning no good" right from the start?

A. To make us feel terrified and realize the characters are in real danger.
B. To make us feel sorry for him because he has a wooden leg.
C. To show that the pirate is just looking for a friend.
D. To make us laugh at his funny clothes.

Ans: A. To make us feel terrified and realize the characters are in real danger.

139. What does the poet compare Custard's loud snorting to, showing how powerful he is?

A. A roaring lion
B. A loud engine
C. A thunderstorm
D. A crackling campfire

Ans: B. A loud engine

140. Which of these can be concluded about Ink, Blink and Mustard after reading 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon'?

A. They were boastful creatures
B. They were courageous warriors
C. They were obedient towards Belinda
D. They were kidnappers sent by the pirate

Ans. A. They were boastful creatures

The Sermon at Benares

[Source: Values and Voices: A College Reader by Betty Renshaw]

141. About how many years ago was Gautam Buddha born?

A. 500
B. 600
C. 1500
D. 2600

Ans: D. 2600

142. The four sights that changed Siddhartha's life did NOT include

A. A king
B. A sick man
C. A funeral procession
D. An old man

Ans: A. A king

143. Why did Siddhartha leave his royal life?

A. To become a king
B. To search for the truth about human suffering
C. To travel around the world
D. To fight in battles

Ans: B. To search for the truth about human suffering

144. Why did people think Kisa Gotami had lost her senses?

A. She refused to speak
B. She wandered with her dead child asking for medicine
C. She left her home forever
D. She blamed everyone for her sorrow

Ans: B. She wandered with her dead child asking for medicine

145. What was the special condition attached to the mustard seeds?

A. They must be fresh
B. They must be from a rich house
C. They must be from a house untouched by death
D. They must be offered with prayer

Ans: C. They must be from a house untouched by death

146. The Buddha's method of teaching Kisa Gotami was mainly based on

A. Punishment
B. Practical experience and self-realisation
C. Strict rules
D. Reward and appreciation

Ans: B. Practical experience and self-realisation

147. Why does the Buddha choose not to directly tell Kisa Gotami that death is universal?

A. He wants to avoid speaking to her
B. He expects someone else to help her
C. He is unsure of the answer
D. He wants her to discover the truth through her own experience

Ans: D. He wants her to discover the truth through her own experience.

148. Which statement best explains why Kisa Gotami's search for mustard seeds changes her perspective?

A. She finds many kind people
B. She realises that every family has experienced death
C. She becomes tired of walking
D. She receives help from wealthy families

Ans: B. She realises that every family has experienced death

149. What transformation best describes Kisa Gotami at the end of the story?

A. From blind grief to spiritual understanding
B. From sorrow to revenge
C. From faith to doubt
D. From poverty to wealth

Ans: A. From blind grief to spiritual understanding

150. According to the Buddha, life is afflicted by

A. Wealth and success
B. Pleasure and comfort
C. Fame and honour
D. Death and suffering

Ans: D. Death and suffering

151. What natural image does the Buddha use to explain human mortality?

A. Flowing river
B. Burning lamp
C. Ripe fruits
D. Setting sun

Ans: C. Ripe fruits

152. According to the Buddha, what happens to those who cling to grief?

A. They gain wisdom
B. They remain in sorrow
C. They become famous
D. They find peace quickly

Ans: B. They remain in sorrow

153. What does the word "mortals" in the Buddha's sermon mean?

A. All human beings
B. Monks
C. Kings
D. The poor

Ans: A. All human beings

154. If Kisa Gotami had found a house untouched by death, what would have happened to the Buddha's lesson?

A. It would have become stronger
B. It would have lost its intended meaning
C. It would have remained unchanged
D. It would have proved that miracles are possible

Ans: B. It would have lost its intended meaning

155. Which quality is most essential for accepting the Buddha's teaching in 'The Sermon at Benares'?

A. Courage to face reality with wisdom
B. Physical strength
C. Wealth and influence
D. Blind faith

Ans: A. Courage to face reality with wisdom

FOR ANNE GREGORY
- Adrienne Rich

156. Who wrote the poem 'For Anne Gregory'?

A. John Berryman
B. William Butler Yeats
C. Robert Frost
D. Walt Whitman

Ans: B. William Butler Yeats

157. What feature of Anne Gregory attracts young men?

A. Her voice
B. Her kindness
C. Her yellow hair
D. Her smile

Ans: C. Her yellow hair

158. What does Anne Gregory suggest she can do?

A. Cut her hair
B. Dye her hair
C. Hide her hair
D. Tie her hair

Ans: B. Dye her hair

159. According to the poem 'For Anne Gregory', who can truly love someone for themselves?

A. Friends
B. Family
C. God
D. Strangers

Ans: C. God

160. What does the poem 'For Anne Gregory' suggest about most people?

A. They are attracted mainly by outward beauty
B. They value inner beauty more than appearance
C. They dislike beautiful people
D. They never judge others

Ans: A. They are attracted mainly by outward beauty

161. What does Anne Gregory wish to know?

A. Whether she should become a singer
B. Whether she should change her name
C. Whether she should travel abroad
D. Whether anyone would love her for herself alone

Ans: D. Whether anyone would love her for herself alone

162. Why does the speaker mention Anne Gregory's yellow hair in the poem?

A. To praise her fashion sense
B. To criticise people with coloured hair
C. To illustrate how physical beauty attracts attention
D. To show that hair colour determines personality

Ans: C. To illustrate how physical beauty attracts attention.

163. Anne Gregory's yellow hair is presented as a symbol of:

A. External beauty
B. Intelligence
C. Wealth
D. Courage

Ans: A. External beauty

164. What message does the poem 'For Anne Gregory' ultimately convey?

A. Beauty guarantees true love
B. Outer appearance is more important than character
C. Hair colour determines a person's personality
D. True love values inner qualities rather than physical appearance

Ans: D. True love values inner qualities rather than physical appearance

165. If Anne Gregory changed her hair colour but people still admired only her appearance, what would the speaker most likely conclude?

A. Changing one's appearance always changes people's opinions
B. People often continue to judge others by their outward appearance
C. Hair colour is more important than character
D. Anne Gregory should never change her hair

Ans: B. People often continue to judge others by their outward appearance

The Proposal
- Anton Chekov

166. Why does Lomov visit Chubukov's house?

A. To propose marriage
B. To discuss farming
C. To borrow money
D. To attend a party

Ans: A. To propose marriage

167. What type of play is 'The Proposal'?

A. Comedy
B. Tragedy
C. Farce
D. Historical drama

Ans: C. Farce

168. What is the name of the disputed land in 'The Proposal'?

A. Green Field
B. Oxen Meadows
C. Cherry Garden
D. Oak Farm

Ans: B. Oxen Meadows

169. Lomov's constant complaints about his health suggest that he is:

A. Brave
B. Overly anxious about his health
C. Careless
D. Dishonest

Ans: B. Overly anxious about his health

170. What quality do Lomov and Natalya share?

A. Patience
B. Kindness
C. Stubbornness
D. Silence
Ans : C. Stubbornness

171. What does the ending of 'The Proposal' suggest?

A. The characters have learned from their mistakes
B. They will continue arguing even after marriage
C. They will never speak again
D. They will cancel the marriage
Ans: B. They will continue arguing even after marriage

172. Which health problem does Lomov repeatedly complain of throughout the play?

A. Fever
B. Headache
C. Blindness
D. Heart palpitations
Ans: D. Heart palpitations

173. Why does Lomov want to marry?

A. For a peaceful life
B. For money
C. For adventure
D. For travel
Ans: A. For a peaceful life

174. What do Lomov and Natalya first argue about?

A. Dogs
B. Money
C. Land ownership
D. Marriage
Ans: C. Land ownership

175. Who reveals Lomov's proposal to Natalya?

A. Natalya
B. Chubukov
C. A servant
D. A neighbour
Ans: B. Chubukov

176. Why do Lomov and Natalya quarrel over their dogs?

A. Because each believes their own dog is superior
B. To decide which dog should be sold
C. Because both dogs are missing
D. Because they want to exchange their dogs
Ans: A. Because each believes their own dog is superior

177. Which action by Lomov and Natalya best shows that pride can create unnecessary conflicts?

A. They greet each other politely
B. They decide not to meet again
C. They agree to settle the dispute peacefully
D. They continue arguing instead of discussing the marriage
Ans: D. They continue arguing instead of discussing the marriage

178. What would have been the most effective way for Lomov and Natalya to avoid their unnecessary quarrels?

A. Continue arguing until someone wins
B. End the marriage proposal immediately
C. Listen to each other patiently and resolve the disagreement calmly
D. Ignore each other's opinions completely

Ans: C. Listen to each other patiently and resolve the disagreement calmly

179. How does Natalya react when she hears about Lomov's proposal?

A. She refuses him immediately
B. She cries
C. She ignores the proposal
D. She wants Lomov to return at once

Ans: D. She wants Lomov to return at once

180. If Lomov and Natalya had listened patiently to each other during their disagreements, what would most likely have happened?

A. Their arguments would have ended more quickly
B. They would have become enemies forever
C. Chubukov would have cancelled the proposal
D. The dispute over the dogs would have become more serious

Ans: A. Their arguments would have ended more quickly

Supplementary Reader:

A Triumph of Surgery - James Herriot

181. Why did Dr. Herriot decide to take Tricki away from Mrs. Pumphrey's house?

A. Tricki had a contagious disease
B. He believed a change in routine and controlled care was necessary
C. Mrs. Pumphrey wanted to sell Tricki
D. Tricki needed an operation at the hospital

Ans: B. He believed a change in routine and controlled care was necessary

182. Which quality of Dr. Herriot is best reflected in the story 'A Triumph of Surgery'?

A. Greed for money
B. Fear of difficult cases
C. Patience and practical wisdom
D. Strictness towards all pet owners

Ans: C. Patience and practical wisdom

183. Why did Mrs. Pumphrey think Tricki's recovery was a "triumph of surgery"?

A. She believed Dr. Herriot had performed a difficult operation
B. She knew Tricki had recovered without any treatment
C. She had watched the entire treatment herself
D. She believed only expensive medicines could cure Tricki

Ans: A. She believed Dr. Herriot had performed a difficult operation

184. What was the real "triumph of surgery" in the story?

A. Tricki underwent a complex operation
B. Dr. Herriot prescribed powerful medicines
C. Mrs. Pumphrey learned veterinary skills
D. Tricki recovered through proper care, diet, and exercise

Ans: D. Tricki recovered through proper care, diet, and exercise

185. Which of the following best reflects the lesson on real-life pet care conveyed in the story 'A Triumph of Surgery'?

A. Pets do not need exercise
B. Excessive pampering can harm pets
C. Medicine is always necessary for sick pets
D. Feeding more treats is the key to love

Ans: B. Excessive pampering can harm pets

THE THIEF'S STORY
- Ruskin Bond

186. Why did the thief approach Anil?

A. To rob him immediately
B. To ask for money
C. To gain his trust and rob later
D. To become his friend

Ans: C. To gain his trust and rob later

187. Why did Hari Singh hesitate to board the train?

A. He was scared of police
B. He felt guilty
C. He had no ticket
D. He was tired

Ans: B. He felt guilty

188. Hari said Anil was the most trusting person he ever met. How did this trust make Hari feel?

A. It made him feel bad and made it harder for him to steal
B. It made him happy because stealing would be easy.
C. It made him think Anil was foolish.
D. It made him want to steal even more money.

Ans: A. It made him feel bad and made it harder for him to steal

189. Hari tied the money to his pyjamas and hurried to the station. What does this hurry represent in the story?

A. His fear of missing the last train of the night.
B. The sudden rush of excitement and anxiety that comes right after committing a crime.
C. His desire to get to the station before it started raining.
D. His plan to count the money safely at the railway station.

Ans: B. The sudden rush of excitement and anxiety that comes right after committing a crime.

190. At the end of the story, Hari decides to become an educated and respectable man. What truly caused this change in him?

A. The fear of getting caught by the police the next time he stole.
B. The fact that he was tired of living a life on the run.
C. The realization that six hundred rupees is not a lot of money.
D. Anil's unconditional faith and the promise to teach him how to write.

Ans: D. Anil's unconditional faith and the promise to teach him how to write.

A QUESTION OF TRUST
- Victor Canning

191. How did Horace Danby get the money to buy the books he loved?

A. By making locks
B. By working in a library
C. By stealing from rich people's safes
D. By selling paintings

Ans : C. By stealing from rich people's safes

192. Why didn't Horace Danby wear gloves while opening the safe for the lady in red?

A. Because he forgot them in his bag
B. Because he wanted to work faster
C. Because he trusted the woman and was in a hurry to please her
D. Because he thought the safe was already broken

Ans : C. Because he trusted the woman and was in a hurry to please her

193. What physical ailment did Horace Danby suffer from, which made him sneeze?

A. Asthma
B. Hay fever
C. Arthritis
D. Chronic bronchitis

Ans: B. Hay fever

194. Who did the young lady in red claim to be when Horace encountered her in the drawing room?

A. The wife of the owner of the house
B. The caretaker's daughter
C. A visiting friend of the family
D. A wealthy neighbour

Ans: A. The wife of the owner of the house

195. What was the ultimate consequence of Horace's trust in the lady in red?

A. He was sent to prison because his fingerprints were found on the safe
B. He escaped with the jewels but gave up stealing forever
C. The lady in red gave him a share of the stolen jewels
D. He became a locksmith assistant in the prison

Ans: A. He was sent to prison because his fingerprints were found on the safe

Footprints Without Feet
- H. G. Wells

196. Who followed the muddy footprints?

A. The landlord
B. Two girls
C. Mr. and Mrs. Hall
D. Two boys

Ans: D. Two boys

197. The shop of the theatrical company was situated at:

A. Griffin Lane
B. London Lane
C. Drury Lane
D. Iping Lane

Ans: C. Drury Lane

198. Instead of working honestly, Griffin used his invisibility to steal from innocent people. What does this tell us about him?

A. He is a good person who just needed a little help.
B. He does not care about hurting others as long as he gets what he wants.
C. He is just playing a harmless joke on his neighbors.
D. He wants to share his money with the poor.

Ans: B. He does not care about hurting others as long as he gets what he wants.

199. Which option best describes Mrs. Hall from 'Footprints Without Feet?

A. Hospitable but firm
B. Scared and superstitious
C. Accommodating but curious
D. Opportunistic and insensitive

Ans. A. Hospitable but firm

200. What happened to Mr. Jaffers, the constable, when he tried to arrest the invisible man?

A. He successfully tied Griffin up with a rope.
B. He was knocked unconscious by Griffin and couldn't stop him.
C. He decided to help Griffin escape from the angry crowd.
D. He ran away immediately because he was too scared to fight.

Ans: B. He was knocked unconscious by Griffin and couldn't stop him.

The Necklace
- Guy de Maupassant

201. What does Matilda's reaction to the invitation reveal?

A. She is humble
B. She is content
C. She cares about appearance
D. She hates parties

Ans: C. She cares about appearance

202. What does Monsieur Loisel's decision to give Matilda his savings reveal about him?

A. He was careless with money
B. He cared more about Matilda's happiness than his own wishes
C. He believed expensive clothes were unnecessary
D. He wanted to impress others

Ans: B. He cared more about Matilda's happiness than his own wishes

203. Why did Matilda and her husband hide the truth from Madame Forestier?

A. They feared admitting the loss and facing the consequences
B. They planned to keep the necklace
C. They believed someone would return it
D. They forgot to inform her

Ans: A. They feared admitting the loss and facing the consequences

204. Which action by Matilda and her husband led to years of hardship?

A. Accepting the invitation to the party
B. Borrowing the necklace
C. Replacing the necklace without informing Madame Forestier of the loss
D. Buying a new dress for the party

Ans: C. Replacing the necklace without informing Madame Forestier of the loss

205. What lesson does the story 'The Necklace' teach?

A. Friends are not trustworthy
B. Money is everything
C. Parties are useless
D. Honesty and contentment are important

Ans: D. Honesty and contentment are important

Bholi
- K. A. Abbas

206. Who helped Bholi gain confidence?

A. Her father
B. Her sisters
C. The villagers
D. Her teacher

Ans: D. Her teacher.

207. What does Bholi's eagerness to attend school later in the story show?

A. She wanted to leave her home.
B. She realised the value of education.
C. She wanted to become famous.
D. She wished to avoid household work.

Ans: B. She realised the value of education.

208. Why did Bholi refuse to marry Bishamber?

A. He was poor
B. He was old
C. He demanded dowry
D. He lived far away

Ans: C. He demanded dowry.

209. Which quality of Bholi is best reflected when she rejects the marriage proposal?

A. Pride
B. Courage and self-respect
C. Jealousy
D. Carelessness

Ans: B. Courage and self-respect.

210. What does Bholi's transformation by the end of the story mainly show?

A. Education gives confidence and self-respect.
B. Wealth brings happiness.
C. Marriage is the only goal in life.
D. Beauty is more important than character.

Ans: A. Education gives confidence and self-respect.

Grammar

In the Board Examination Q. No 15-20 (6 MCQs) will be on Grammar (Tenses, Modals, Determiners, Subject-verb Concord and Reported Speech)

TENSES

211. Seema _____ to school every day.
A. go
B. went
C. going
D. goes

Ans: D. goes

212. I _____ this movie twice this week.
A. saw
B. have seen
C. seeing
D. see

Ans: B. have seen

213. The boy _____ for the examination all week.
A. has studied
B. has been studying
C. studies
D. was studying

Ans: B. has been studying

214. They _____ football at 5 p.m. yesterday.
A. play
B. played
C. were playing
D. have played

Ans: C. were playing

215. By the time we arrived, she _____ her homework.
A. had finished
B. finished
C. has finished
D. finishes

Ans: A. had finished

216. By next month, he _____ at this company for ten years.
A. work
B. will work
C. will have worked
D. will have been working

Ans: D. will have been working

217. Listen! The baby _____ loudly.
A. cries
B. cried
C. is crying
D. has cried

Ans: C. is crying

218. We _____ the museum yesterday.
A. explore
B. explored
C. have explored
D. are exploring

Ans: B. explored

219. She _____ her grandparents next Sunday.
A. visits
B. visited
C. will visit
D. visiting

Ans: C. will visit

220. At this time tomorrow, they _____ to Delhi.
A. will be travelling
B. travel
C. travelled
D. have travelled

Ans: A. will be travelling

221. By next month, we _____ the project.
A. complete
B. completed
C. will have completed
D. have completed

Ans: C. will have completed

222. She _____ for the competition for several weeks before she fell ill.
A. practised
B. was practising
C. has been practising
D. had been practising

Ans: D. had been practising

223. The children have been waiting for the bus since morning.

A. Present Perfect
B. Present Perfect Continuous
C. Present Continuous
D. Past Perfect Continuous

Ans: B. Present Perfect Continuous

224. By the end of this month, she will have completed the course.

A. Simple Future
B. Future Continuous
C. Future Perfect
D. Future Perfect Continuous

Ans: C. Future Perfect

225. He was cooking dinner in the kitchen.

A. Past Continuous
B. Simple Past
C. Present Continuous
D. Past Perfect

Ans: A. Past Continuous

MODALS

226. She ____ play the piano very well.
A. should
B. must
C. might
D. can

Ans: D. can

227. You ____ submit your assignment by tomorrow; it is compulsory.
A. may
B. must
C. can
D. could

Ans: B. must

228. I ____ visit my grandparents if I have time.

A. will
B. must
C. might
D. shall

Ans: C. might

229. ____ I borrow your pen for a moment?

A. May
B. Must
C. Shall
D. Should

Ans: A. May

230. You ____ take some rest; you look tired.

A. must
B. can
C. should
D. might

Ans: C. should

231. How ____ you speak to your teacher like that?
A. may
B. can
C. should
D. dare

Ans: D. dare

232. We ____ wear helmets while riding a motorcycle.

A. can
B. must
C. might
D. could

Ans: B. must

233. ____ you help me carry these bags, please?

A. Could
B. Can
C. Shall
D. Must

Ans: A. Could

234. It is cloudy. It ____ rain later in the evening.

A. should
B. can
C. might
D. ought to

Ans: C. might

235. You ____ eat too much junk food if you want to stay healthy.

A. need not
B. cannot
C. may not
D. should not

Ans: D. should not

236. She ____ solve difficult Maths problems when she was in Class VIII.

A. can
B. could
C. must
D. shall

Ans: B. could

237. You ____ leave early today if you have finished your work.

A. may
B. must
C. ought to
D. should

Ans: A. may

238. We ____ meet our grandparents during the summer vacation.

A. will
B. must
C. need
D. ought to

Ans: A. will

239. You ____ apologise for your mistake; it is the right thing to do.

A. will
B. can
C. might
D. ought to

Ans: D. ought to

240. You ____ carry an umbrella today; the weather forecast says it will be sunny.

A. must not
B. need not
C. should
D. may

Ans: B. need not

DETERMINERS

241. ____ boy standing near the gate is my brother.
A. A
B. The
C. Some
D. Any

Ans: B. The

242. She did not have ____ money to pay the bill.
A. some
B. many
C. few
D. any

Ans: D. any

243. ____ students were absent yesterday.
A. Each
B. Either
C. Many
D. Much

Ans: C. Many

244. She spent ____ hour reviewing the documents carefully.
A. a
B. an
C. the
D. some

Ans: B. an

245. He bought ____ books from the store.
A. every
B. much
C. a little
D. a few

Ans: D. a few

246. He gave me ____ advice about my career.
A. many
B. a few
C. some
D. few

Ans: C. some

247. There isn't ____ time left before the examination begins.

A. many
B. much
C. few
D. several

Ans: B. much

248. I have visited this museum ____ times before.
A. several
B. much
C. every
D. little

Ans: A. several

249. There is ____ sugar left in the jar.
A. many
B. few
C. little
D. several

Ans: C. little

250. ____ student in the class received a certificate.
A. Every
B. Several
C. Few
D. Much

Ans: A. Every

251. ____ students attended the extra class because of the heavy rain.

A. Few
B. Much
C. Every
D. Any

Ans: A. Few

252. I was grateful for ____ friends who stood by me during difficult times.

A. few
B. a few
C. the few
D. several

Ans: C. the few

253. There isn't ____ water left in the bottle.

A. some
B. any
C. many
D. each

Ans: B. any

254. The teacher spoke to ____ student individually.

A. each
B. many
C. much
D. little

Ans: A. each

255. ____ team played well in the football final match.

A. Several
B. Little
C. Much
D. Neither

Ans: D. Neither

SUBJECT-VERB CONCORD

256. Everybody ___ excited about the trip.

A. is
B. are
C. were
D. have

Ans: A. is

257. Each of the students ___ a notebook.

A. have
B. has
C. are
D. is

Ans: B. has

258. Neither Ramesh nor his friends ___ coming to the party.

A. is
B. are
C. was
D. has been

Ans: B. are

259. The jury ___ divided in their opinions.

A. has
B. have
C. is
D. are

Ans: D. are

260. Many a man ___ lost his way in the forest.

A. were
B. is
C. has
D. have

Ans: C. has

261. The police ___ investigating the case.
A. is
B. are
C. was
D. were

Ans: B. are

262. Ten kilometres ____ a long distance to walk every day.
A. are
B. is
C. were
D. have

Ans: B. is

263. The quality of the apples ____ excellent.
A. are
B. were
C. have
D. is

Ans: D. is

264. A number of students ____ absent today.
A. is
B. was
C. are
D. has

Ans: C. are

265. The number of students in the class ____ increasing every year.
A. is
B. are
C. have
D. were

Ans: A. is

266. The furniture in this room ____ very expensive.
A. are
B. were
C. is
D. have

Ans: C. is

267. My spectacles ____ on the table.
A. is
B. was
C. has
D. are

Ans: D. are

268. The United States ____ a developed country.
A. is
B. are
C. were
D. have

Ans: A. is

269. The rich ____ often expected to help the poor.
A. is
B. are
C. has
D. was

Ans: B. are

270. The cattle ____ grazing in the field.
A. is
B. has
C. are
D. was

Ans: C. are

REPORTED SPEECH

(Direct to Indirect Speech)

271. Mother said, "I met him yesterday."

A. Mother said that she met him yesterday.
B. Mother said that she had met him yesterday.
C. Mother said that she has met him yesterday.
D. Mother said that she had met him the previous day.

Ans: D. Mother said that she had met him the previous day.

272. He said to me, "Where do you live?"

A. He asked me where I lived.
B. He asked me where did I live.
C. He asked me where do I live.
D. He asked me where I live.

Ans: A. He asked me where I lived.

273. The teacher said to the students, "Work hard."

A. The teacher said to the students work hard.
B. The teacher advised the students to work hard.
C. The teacher ordered the students work hard.
D. The teacher told the students work hard.

Ans: B. The teacher advised the students to work hard.

274. Father said to me, "Do not waste time."

A. Father advised me not to waste time.
B. Father told me not waste time.
C. Father advised me to not waste time.
D. Father said to me not to waste time.

Ans: A. Father advised me not to waste time.

275. He said, "How beautiful the garden is!"

A. He said the garden was beautiful.
B. He exclaimed the garden is beautiful.
C. He told the garden was beautiful.
D. He exclaimed with joy that the garden was very beautiful.

Ans: D. He exclaimed with joy that the garden was very beautiful.

276. The teacher said, "Honesty is the best policy."

A. The teacher said honesty was the best policy.
B. The teacher said honesty has been the best policy.
C. The teacher said that honesty is the best policy.
D. The teacher told that honesty is the best policy.

Ans: C. The teacher said that honesty is the best policy.

277. She said, "I am learning French."

A. She said that she is learning French.
B. She said that she was learning French.
C. She said that she had learnt French.
D. She said that she has been learning French.

Ans: B. She said that she was learning French.

278. Anita said, "I lost my keys last night."

A. Anita said that she lost her keys last night.
B. Anita said that she had lost her keys the previous night.
C. Anita said that she has lost her keys the previous night.
D. Anita said that she had lost her keys last night.

Ans: B. Anita said that she had lost her keys the previous night.

279. She said to me, "Do you understand this lesson?"

A. She asked me if I understood that lesson.
B. She asked me that I understood that lesson.
C. She asked me whether did I understand that lesson.
D. She asked me if I understand this lesson.

Ans: A. She asked me if I understood that lesson.

280. The teacher said to the student, "When did you submit the form?"

A. The teacher asked the student when he submitted the form.
B. The teacher asked the student when had he submitted the form.
C. The teacher asked the student when he had submitted the form.
D. The teacher asked the student when did he submit the form.

Ans: C. The teacher asked the student when he had submitted the form.

281. The principal said to the students, "Maintain discipline."

A. The principal told the students maintain discipline.
B. The principal ordered the students to maintain discipline.
C. The principal said that the students should maintain discipline.
D. The principal requested the students maintaining discipline.

Ans: B. The principal ordered the students to maintain discipline.

282. The guard said to us, "Do not enter this gate."

A. The guard warned us not to enter that gate.
B. The guard said to us not enter that gate.
C. The guard ordered us do not enter that gate.
D. The guard requested us not entering that gate.

Ans: A. The guard warned us not to enter that gate.

283. He said to his friends, "Let us leave early."

A. He ordered his friends to leave early.
B. He requested his friends to leave early.
C. He suggested to his friends that they should leave early.
D. He told his friends that they left early.

Ans: C. He suggested to his friends that they should leave early.

284. The old man said, "May God bless you!"

A. The old man said that God blessed me.
B. The old man prayed that God might bless me.
C. The old man wished me good luck.
D. The old man said that God will bless me.

Ans: B. The old man prayed that God might bless me.

285. The boy said, "Hurrah! We won the match."

A. The boy said that they won the match.
B. The boy exclaimed with joy that they had won the match.
C. The boy exclaimed that they won the match.
D. The boy said with joy that they have won the match.

Ans: B. The boy exclaimed with joy that they had won the match.

(Indirect to Direct Speech)

286. The stranger asked me if I could drive a car.

A. The stranger said to me, "Can you drive a car?"
B. The stranger said to me, "Could I drive a car?"
C. The stranger said to me, "Will you drive a car?"
D. The stranger said to me, "Do you drive a car?"

Ans: A. The stranger said to me, "Can you drive a car?"

287. She advised him to consult a doctor immediately.

A. She said to him, "Consulted a doctor immediately."
B. She said to him, "Consult a doctor immediately."
C. She said to him, "You consult a doctor immediately."
D. She said to him, "To consult a doctor immediately."

Ans: B. She said to him, "Consult a doctor immediately."

288. Jenny exclaimed with joy that she had passed the test.

A. Jenny said, "How I passed the test!"
B. Jenny said, "I passed the test."
C. Jenny said, "I have passed the test."
D. Jenny said, "Hurrah! I have passed the test!"

Ans: D. Jenny said, "Hurrah! I have passed the test!"

289. She asked the boys why they were making so much noise.

A. She said to the boys, "Why had you been making so much noise?"
B. She said to the boys, "Why are you making so much noise?"
C. She said, "Why you are making so much noise?"
D. She said, "Why did you making so much noise?"

Ans: B. She said to the boys, "Why are you making so much noise?"

290. He asked me who would represent the team.

A. He said to me, “Who would represent the team?”
B. He said to me, “Who will represent this team?”
C. He said to me, “Who represents the team?”
D. He said to me, “Who did represent the team?”

Ans: A. He said to me, “Who will represent the team?”

291. The man told her that he was waiting there for her brother.

A. The man said to her, “I am waiting there for your brother.”
B. The man said to her, “I waited here for your brother.”
C. The man said to her, “I am waiting here for your brother.”
D. The man said to her, “I was waiting there for your brother.”

Ans: C. The man said to her, “I am waiting here for your brother.”

292. She said that she was tired that day.

A. She said, “I am tired today.”
B. She said, “I was tired today.”
C. She said, “I am tired that day.”
D. She said, “I have been tired today.”

Ans: A. She said, “I am tired today.”

293. He told me that he had lost his wallet the previous day.

A. He said to me, “I had lost my wallet yesterday.”
B. He said to me, “I lose my wallet yesterday.”
C. He said to me, “I have lost my wallet the previous day.”
D. He said to me, “I lost my wallet yesterday.”

Ans: D. He said to me, “I lost my wallet yesterday.”

294. She asked me if I liked music.

A. She said to me, “Did you like music?”
B. She said to me, “Do you like music?”
C. She said to me, “Will you like music?”
D. She said to me, “Have you liked music?”

Ans: B. She said to me, “Do you like music?”

295. She asked where I was going.

A. She said to me, “Where were you going?”
B. She said to me, “Where do you go?”
C. She said to me, “Where are you going?”
D. She said to me, “Where have you gone?”

Ans: C. She said to me, “Where are you going?”

296. The teacher told the students to sit quietly.

A. The teacher said to the students, "Sit quietly."
B. The teacher said to the students, "You sit quietly."
C. The teacher said to the students, "To sit quietly."
D. The teacher said to the students, "Sitting quietly."

Ans: A. The teacher said to the students, "Sit quietly."

297. She requested him to close the window.

A. She said to him, "Close the window."
B. She said to him, "Please close the window."
C. She said to him, "You close the window."
D. She said to him, "To close the window."

Ans: B. She said to him, "Please close the window."

298. He suggested that they should try again.

A. He said to them, "Try again."
B. He said to them, "You should try again."
C. He said to them, "Let us try again."
D. He said to them, "Please try again."

Ans: C. He said to them, "Let us try again."

299. The old man prayed that God might help him.

A. The old man said, "God helps me!"
B. The old man said, "May God help me!"
C. The old man said, "God will help me!"
D. The old man said, "Please help me, God!"

Ans: B. The old man said, "May God help me!"

300. He exclaimed with sorrow that he had lost his watch.

A. He said, "I lost my watch!"
B. He said, "I had lost my watch!"
C. He said, "What a watch I lost!"
D. He said, "Alas! I have lost my watch!"

Ans: D. He said, "Alas! I have lost my watch!"

Reading Comprehension

In the Board Examination Q.No.21-30(10 MCQs) will be based on the passage given

COMPREHENSION PASSAGE

Nature plays a vital role in maintaining balance on Earth. Forests, rivers, mountains, and oceans provide resources that support life for humans, animals, and plants. Trees produce oxygen, absorb carbon dioxide, and help regulate the climate. They also prevent soil erosion and provide shelter and food for many living creatures. Because of these benefits, forests are often called the "lungs of the Earth."

However, in recent years, human activities have caused serious damage to the natural environment. Large areas of forests are being cut down for agriculture, construction, and industrial development. This process, known as deforestation, leads to the loss of wildlife habitats and reduces biodiversity. Many animals lose their homes and may even face extinction when forests disappear.

Pollution is another major threat to nature. Air pollution from vehicles and factories harms both the environment and human health. Water pollution caused by waste and chemicals affects rivers and oceans, making the water unsafe for aquatic life. Plastic waste is also becoming a serious problem because it takes many years to decompose and often harms animals that accidentally consume it.

Despite these challenges, people around the world are becoming more aware of the need to protect the environment. Governments and organizations are encouraging tree planting, recycling, and the use of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power. Individuals can also contribute by reducing waste, conserving water, and protecting natural habitats.

In conclusion, protecting nature is a shared responsibility. If people take small but meaningful actions to care for the environment, future generations will be able to enjoy a healthy and balanced planet.

MCQs (SOLVED)

1. What is the main topic of the passage?

A. The importance of protecting nature
B. The development of cities
C. The benefits of factories
D. The history of forests
Ans: A

2. Forests are called the "lungs of the Earth" because they:

A. Produce oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide
B. Contain many animals
C. Are very large
D. Have tall trees
Ans: A

3. What is deforestation?

A. Planting new trees
B. Cutting down large areas of forests
C. Protecting wildlife
D. Cleaning rivers
Ans: B

4. One result of deforestation is

A. Increased biodiversity
B. Loss of wildlife habitats
C. Cleaner air
D. More rainfall
Ans: B

5. Air pollution mainly comes from

A. Rivers and lakes
B. Vehicles and factories
C. Trees and plants
D. Animals
Ans: B

6. Water pollution affects

A. Only humans
B. Only plants
C. Aquatic life in rivers and oceans
D. Only forests
Ans: C

7. Why is plastic waste a serious problem?

A. It disappears quickly
B. It improves soil quality
C. It takes many years to decompose
D. It increases oxygen
Ans: C

8. Which of the following is a renewable energy source mentioned in the passage?

A. Coal
B. Oil
C. Solar power
D. Gasoline
Ans: C

9. Individuals can help protect nature by

A. Increasing waste
B. Conserving water and recycling
C. Cutting more trees
D. Ignoring pollution
Ans: B

10. The passage concludes that protecting nature is

A. The government's job only
B. Impossible
C. A shared responsibility
D. Not important
Ans: C

Section – B
ANALYTICAL PASSAGE

This Section will contain one Question on Reading Comprehension through Case Based Factual Passage (with visual input statistical data, chart, etc) At the end of the passage there will be 10 questions. Each question carries one mark. Read the passage and the statistical data care-fully before answering.

1. A recent survey was conducted among 500 students of four senior secondary schools to understand how teenagers spend their free time after school. The survey divided activities into five categories: sports, reading, social media, television, and creative hobbies such as painting, music, and photography.

The findings revealed that 40% of the students spent most of their free time on social media. Sports was the second most preferred activity, chosen by 25% of the students. Reading attracted 15% of the students, while television accounted for 10%. The remaining 10% preferred creative hobbies.

The survey also showed a difference between students living in urban and rural areas. Urban students spent more time on social media and television, whereas rural students participated more in sports and creative hobbies. Researchers observed that students who regularly engaged in sports or creative hobbies generally reported lower stress levels and better concentration in studies.

Another important finding was related to academic performance. Students who spent more than four hours daily on social media showed a decline in their grades over a six-month period. On the other hand, students who balanced recreational activities with study schedules performed better academically and emotionally.

Teachers involved in the survey suggested that schools should encourage students to participate in physical and creative activities. They believed that such activities help students develop discipline, teamwork, confidence, and problem-solving skills.

Chart Showing Students' Preferred Activities

Activity	Percentage of Students
Social Media	40%
Sports	25%
Reading	15%
Television	10%
Creative Hobbies	10%

Questions with Answers

1. What was the main purpose of the survey?

Ans: The main purpose of the survey was to understand how teenagers spend their free time after school.

2. Which activity was the most preferred among students?

Ans: Social media was the most preferred activity among students.

3. What percentage of students preferred sports?

Ans: 25% of the students preferred sports.

4. Which two activities were chosen by the smallest number of students?

Ans: Television and creative hobbies were chosen by the smallest number of students.

5. How did the interests of urban students differ from those of rural students?

Ans: Urban students spent more time on social media and television, whereas rural students participated more in sports and creative hobbies.

6. Which group of students reported lower stress levels?

Ans: Students who regularly engaged in sports or creative hobbies reported lower stress levels.

7. What happened to students who spent more than four hours daily on social media?

Ans: Students who spent more than four hours daily on social media showed a decline in their grades.

8. Which students performed better academically and emotionally?

Ans: Students who balanced recreational activities with study schedules performed better academically and emotionally.

9. Name any two qualities developed through physical and creative activities.

Ans: Two qualities developed through physical and creative activities are discipline and teamwork.

10. What conclusion can be drawn from the passage?

Ans: The passage concludes that balanced participation in physical and creative activities is beneficial for students' academic performance, emotional well-being, and overall development.

Section – C
LETTER WRITING

1. You are Ruchi / Rohan, a student of Class X. Many students spend excessive time on mobile phones and social media which affects their studies and health. Write a letter to the Editor of a newspaper expressing your concern and suggesting ways in which students can use technology responsibly.

Answer:

Shillong
12th March, 2026

To
The Editor
The Shillong Times
Shillong

Subject: Excessive use of mobile phones among students

Sir/Madam,

I wish to draw attention to the increasing dependence of students on mobile phones and social media. A large number of students spend excessive time online, which is adversely affecting their academic performance, concentration, and physical as well as mental health. Prolonged screen time often leads to reduced outdoor activity, poor sleep patterns, and a decline in interpersonal communication skills.

It is essential for parents and teachers to guide students towards responsible use of technology. Schools should organise awareness programmes and encourage disciplined digital habits. Setting time limits, promoting educational use of devices, and engaging students in sports and creative activities can help maintain a healthy balance.

I sincerely hope that this issue will be addressed so that students can use technology wisely and develop healthier lifestyles.

Yours faithfully,
Rohan Gupta

2. You are Maria D'Souza/ Robert D'Cruz, a resident of Police Bazaar, Shillong. The drains in your locality are often blocked, leading to foul smell and health hazards. Write a letter to the Municipal Commissioner, complaining about the poor sanitation and requesting immediate action.

Answer:

Police Bazaar
Shillong – 793001

1st March, 2026

To
The Municipal Commissioner
Shillong Municipal Board
Shillong

Subject: Complaint regarding poor sanitation

Sir/Madam,

I wish to draw your attention to the poor sanitation conditions in Police Bazaar. The drains in the area are frequently clogged, and garbage often remains uncollected for several days. This results in a foul smell and creates an unhygienic environment, posing serious health risks to residents and visitors alike. The situation worsens during rainy days when overflowing drains spread waste across the streets.

Immediate steps must be taken to clean the drains and ensure regular and timely garbage collection. The municipal authorities should increase monitoring

and deploy sufficient staff to manage waste effectively. Public awareness about proper disposal of garbage should also be promoted to prevent further deterioration of the area.

I sincerely hope the concerned authorities will take prompt action to improve sanitation and ensure a cleaner and healthier environment for all.

Yours faithfully,
Maria D'Souza

3. You are Aiban/ Aimeka Lyngdoh, a resident of Laitumkhrah, Shillong. Many street lights in your locality have not been working for the past two weeks, causing inconvenience and safety issues at night. Write a letter to the Area Manager, MePDCL, Shillong, requesting immediate repair of the street lights.

Answer:
Laitumkhrah
Shillong – 793003

10th February, 2026

To
The Area Manager
MePDCL
Shillong – 793001

Subject: Complaint regarding non-functional street lights

Sir/Madam,

I wish to draw your attention to the issue of non-functional street lights in Laitumkhrah. A large number of street lights in our locality have not been working for the past two weeks, causing serious inconvenience to residents. The streets remain poorly lit at night, making it difficult for people to move around safely. Students returning home in the evening and elderly residents face particular difficulty due to the darkness.

The absence of proper lighting has also increased the chances of accidents and encouraged anti-social activities in the area. This situation poses a threat to the safety and security of the residents.

I request the concerned authorities to take immediate steps to repair the faulty street lights and restore proper illumination. Regular inspection and maintenance should also be ensured to prevent recurrence of such issues.

I hope that prompt action will be taken to resolve this problem at the earliest.

Yours faithfully,
Aiban Lyngdoh

ARTICLE WRITING

1. In today's age of stress and anxiety, the children need to understand the importance of sleep, meditation and yoga over social networking and the use of the cell phone. Write an article, in about 120-150 words, on 'Concentration and Composure, the Need of the Hour'. You are Kyfer / Jessica

Answer:

Concentration and Composure, the Need of the Hour

By Jessica

Modern life is fast-paced and stressful, especially for children. Excessive use of mobile phones and social networking has disturbed their daily routine. Many children stay awake late at night using gadgets, which affect their sleep and reduce their concentration and alertness during the day. Lack of proper sleep can also lead to health problems such as anxiety, obesity, and depression.

It is important for children to understand the value of a balanced lifestyle. Adequate sleep helps in restoring energy and improving focus. Along with this, yoga

and meditation play a vital role in reducing stress and enhancing mental peace. These practices help children remain calm, composed, and attentive in their studies.

Parents and teachers must encourage children to limit screen time and adopt healthy habits. Developing concentration and composure is essential for a healthy and successful life.

2. Video games, Internet, cell phones and other high-tech gear are just part of growing up in a digital world. But parents are concerned about the amount of time their children spend with these and worry that it might be distracting to them and cramping their academic and social development. Write an article, in about 120-150 words, for your school magazine describing both the benefits and drawbacks of using these high-tech devices. You are Aman / Akshita.

Answer:

High Tech Devices – A Boon or Bane

By Aman

In today's digital world, high-tech devices like mobile phones, the internet, and video games have become an essential part of life. They offer many benefits such as easy access to information, online learning, and better communication. Students can enhance their knowledge and stay updated with the latest developments through these technologies.

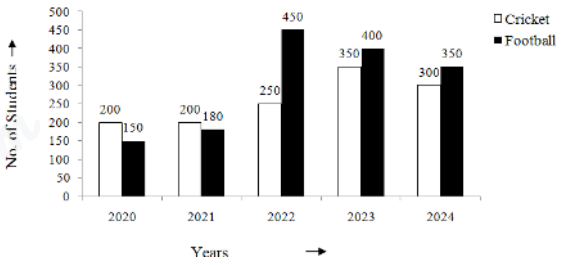
However, excessive use of such devices can have negative effects. Spending long hours on screens may lead to poor eyesight, disturbed sleep, and reduced physical activity. It also distracts students from their studies and limits real-life social interactions. Overdependence on technology can affect both academic performance and personal development.

Therefore, it is important to use these devices wisely and in moderation. With proper guidance from parents and teachers, students can benefit from technology without harming their health or studies.

ANALYTICAL PARAGRAPH

1. The given bar graph shows the preferences of children in a school in playing different games over a period of five years. Write an analytical paragraph about the given information in about 100 to 120 words.

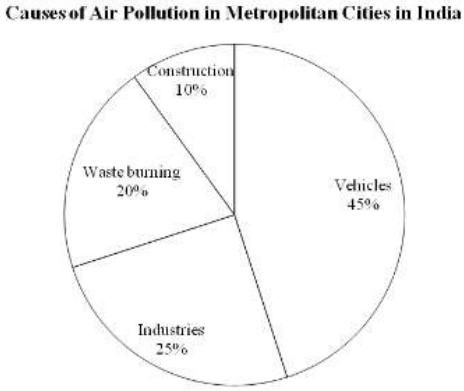
Trends in Student Preferences: Cricket vs. Football (2020–2024)



Ans: The provided bar graph illustrates the shifting preferences of school children for Cricket and Football over a five-year period from 2020 to 2024. Initially, Cricket was the more popular choice, with 200 students opting for it in both 2020 and 2021, while Football followed closely, growing from 150 to 180 students. A significant shift occurred in 2022, when interest in Football surged dramatically to its peak of 450 students, more than doubling its initial figures and comfortably overtaking Cricket (250). Although Cricket saw a steady rise to its own peak of 350 in 2023, Football remained the preferred sport with 400 students. By 2024, both sports experienced a slight decline, with Football

(350) maintaining a narrow lead over Cricket (300). Overall, the data reveals that while Cricket showed gradual growth, Football emerged as the more dominant sport from 2022 onwards despite a final-year dip.

2. Metropolitan cities in India are facing major problems due to the poor quality of air. The following pie chart shows the major causes of air pollution in these cities. Study the data and write an analytical paragraph in 120 – 150 words.



Ans: The pie chart highlights the major causes of air pollution in metropolitan cities of India. Vehicles emerge as the largest contributor, accounting for 45% of total air pollution. The rapid increase in the number of private cars alongside inadequate public transport systems has intensified vehicular emissions in urban areas. Industries form the second major source at 25%, releasing harmful gases and particulate matter into the atmosphere. Waste burning contributes 20%, reflecting poor waste management practices and the open burning of garbage. Construction activities add another 10%, as dust and debris from building sites pollute the air. Overall, the data indicates that transportation and industrial activities are the primary drivers of deteriorating air quality in India's metropolitan cities.

Section – D
Short Answer type questions:
(2 marks each)

1. What did Lencho ask from God and why?

Ans: Lencho asked God for one hundred pesos in order to sow his field again and to live until the new crop came, as the hailstorm had completely destroyed his crops.

2. Why was the destruction of the crop a serious problem for Lencho's family?

Ans: The destruction of the crop was a serious problem for Lencho's family because it was their only source of livelihood. With the entire harvest ruined, they had no corn to sustain themselves and feared going hungry until the next harvest.

3. Why did Lencho call the post office employees crooks?

Ans: Lencho called the post office employees a bunch of crooks because he believed they had stolen 30 pesos from the money God had sent him. He had asked God for 100 pesos but received only 70. Since he firmly believed that God would never send him less than the amount requested, he blamed the post office employees for the missing money.

4. How do the symbols of fire and ice help the poet convey the central idea of the poem?

Ans: Fire symbolises desire, greed, and uncontrolled passion, while ice symbolises hatred and indifference.

Through these symbols, the poet shows that both emotions are equally capable of causing destruction and can ultimately lead to the end of the world.

5. Why does Robert Frost believe that fire can destroy the world?

Ans: Robert Frost believes that fire, which symbolises intense desire, can lead to greed, conflict, and chaos. Such uncontrolled emotions may drive people towards destructive actions, ultimately leading to the end of the world.

6. The poem 'Fire and Ice' warns against destructive emotions. Suggest any two ways by which people can control desire and hatred in everyday life.

Ans: People can control desire by practising contentment and self-discipline. Hatred can be controlled by developing empathy, forgiveness, and respect for others' feelings and opinions. These qualities help promote peace and harmony in society.

7. Why did the young seagull not jump off the ledge with his brothers and sister?

Ans: The young seagull did not jump because he was deeply afraid. When he ran to the edge and looked down at the vast, deep sea below, he panicked. He felt completely certain that his wings were too weak to support him and that he would fall and drown.

8. How did the parents train the young seagull's brothers and sister in the art of flight?

Ans: The parents trained the young seagull's brothers and sister by teaching them how to fly skillfully. They helped them learn to skim the waves and dive for fish.

9. What does the young seagull's successful flight teach us about facing our own fears?

Ans: The story teaches us that fear is often just a trick played by our own minds. The young seagull believed he could not fly, but his body was always capable of it. Similarly, we often hesitate to try new things out of fear, but once we take the first step, we realize we are more capable than we thought.

10. Was the pilot's decision to follow the unknown aeroplane justified? Give a reason.

Ans: Yes, the decision was justified because the pilot had lost his way and had no other safe option. Following the unknown aeroplane helped him navigate through the storm and reach safety successfully.

11. Why did the narrator want to meet the pilot of the black aeroplane?

Ans. The narrator wanted to meet the pilot of the black aeroplane because he wanted to thank its pilot. He had saved the narrator's life by guiding him out of the storm clouds. The narrator was able to land safely at an airport because of him.

12. What is the message that the narrator wants to give to the readers through the lesson 'The Black Aeroplane?

Ans. The narrator wants to convey the message that we should never lose hope, even in the most hopeless situation. He himself was in a desperate situation when he lost contact with Paris control and all his instruments had stopped working. It was the mysterious pilot who guided him safely through the storm and gave him hope and confidence to survive .

13. Why is the ball so important to the boy in ‘The Ball Poem’?

Ans: The ball is so important to the boy because it symbolises his childhood memories, experiences, and emotional attachment. Its loss is painful because it is not merely a toy but a cherished possession associated with a part of his life.

14. What does the poet teach us about dealing with loss through the boy’s experience in ‘The Ball Poem’?

Ans: The poet teaches us that loss is a natural part of life and must be accepted with courage and maturity. The boy’s experience of losing his ball helps him learn an important life lesson and become emotionally stronger.

15. How might the boy’s attitude towards his belongings change after losing the ball?

Ans: After losing the ball, the boy is likely to become more mature and thoughtful about his belongings. He may value them more deeply and understand that material possessions can be lost, making him emotionally stronger and more responsible.

16. Why was writing in a diary a strange experience for Anne Frank?

Ans: Writing in a diary was strange for Anne because she had never written a diary before. Moreover, she felt that, later on, neither she nor anyone else would be interested in the musings of a thirteen-year-old schoolgirl.

17. Why does Anne feel she is alone in the world despite having friends and family?

Ans: Anne has loving parents, a sister, and thirty "friends”, but she lacks a true confidant. She can talk about ordinary things to the people around her but she cannot share her deepest feelings with any of them. This makes her feel lonely and isolated.

18. How does Anne’s description of her relationship with her grandmother reveal her emotional sensibility?

Ans: Anne deeply loved her grandmother, stating that "no one knows how often I think of her and still love her". Her grief during her grandmother's illness and the intentional act of lighting a candle for her during Anne's own birthday celebration show her profound empathy, loyalty, and emotional maturity.

19. Why does the speaker say, “Don’t bite your nails, Amanda!”?

Ans: The speaker says this to correct Amanda’s habits and teach her proper behaviour. It shows the adults’ concern for discipline, though their constant instructions make Amanda feel restricted.

20. How does Amanda use her imagination to cope with the constant instructions she receives?

Ans: Amanda escapes into her imaginary world whenever she is constantly instructed. By imagining herself as a mermaid, an orphan, and Rapunzel, she finds temporary peace, freedom, and relief from the pressure she experiences in real life.

21. Why does Amanda say that she will never let down her bright hair?

Ans: Amanda says this while imagining herself as Rapunzel living alone in a peaceful tower. She does not want anyone to enter her tower because she longs for freedom and wishes to escape from constant instructions and interference.

22. How does the description of the tea gardens in the chapter “Tea from Assam” reflect the beauty and richness of the region?

Ans: The writer describes the tea gardens as a “sea of tea bushes” stretching endlessly against the backdrop of wooded hills, showing their vast beauty. The neatly arranged rows and peaceful surroundings highlight both the scenic charm and natural richness of Assam as a tea-producing region.

23. Why was Rajvir excited during the train journey?

Ans: Rajvir was excited during the train journey because it was his first visit to Assam, the state with the largest concentration of tea plantations in the world. He had read a lot about tea and was eager to see the vast tea gardens with his own eyes.

24. Why did Pranjol’s father say that Rajvir had done his "homework" before coming?

Ans: Pranjol's father said that Rajvir had done his "homework" because Rajvir correctly identified the "second-flush" or sprouting period when he saw a tractor carrying freshly plucked tea leaves. His knowledge about the second flush of tea, its season, and its high-quality yield surprised and impressed Mr. Barua, Pranjol's father.

25. Why are the trees moving out into the forest?

Ans: The trees are moving out into the forest because they want to return to their natural habitat. Their movement symbolizes the desire for freedom and liberation from confinement.

26. In the poem, The Trees, how does the comparison with newly discharged patients help the readers understand the trees' condition?

Ans: The comparison with newly discharged patients helps readers understand that the trees are slowly adjusting to freedom after being confined indoors for a long time. Just as patients take careful, uncertain steps while recovering, the trees also move gradually towards the forest, suggesting both renewal and the struggle to regain their natural place.

27. How does the poem, “The Trees”, encourage readers to develop sensitivity towards nature?

Ans: The poem reminds readers that nature has its own rightful place and should not be confined or exploited. It encourages respect, care, and harmony with the environment.

28. What information did Valli gather about the bus journey?

Ans: Valli learned that the town was six miles from her village. She also found out that the bus journey took about forty-five minutes and that the fare was thirty paise for a one-way trip.

29. How does Valli manage to save money for her bus journey?

Ans: Valli saves sixty paise by carefully controlling her small expenses. She resists buying peppermints and toys and even gives up riding the merry-go-round at the village fair.

30. Why did the conductor call Valli 'Madam'?

Ans: The conductor called Valli "Madam" playfully because she behaved confidently and insisted that she was not a child. He appreciated her self-confidence and treated her with friendly respect.

31. What was the appearance of the dragon?

Ans: Custard the dragon had big sharp teeth, spikes on his head, and scales underneath his body and spikes on top. His mouth was like a fireplace, his nose like a chimney, and his toes were sharp like daggers.

32. How is the behavior of the other pets funny when the pirate enters the house?

Ans: It is funny because the other pets (Ink, Blink, and Mustard) always bragged about how brave they were, but they ran away in fear when a real pirate arrived. Only Custard, who was called a coward, stayed back and fought.

33. How did the characters react after the pirate's death regarding their bravery?

Ans: After the pirate's death, Mustard claimed he would have been twice as brave if he had not been nervous. Ink and Blink boasted that they would have been three times as brave as Custard. Custard humbly agreed and said that they were indeed braver than him.

34. What task did the Buddha give to Kisa Gotami?

Ans: The Buddha asked Kisa Gotami to bring a handful of mustard seed from a house where no one had ever died. This was to help her understand the truth about death.

35. What did Kisa Gotami learn from the people she met during her search for mustard seeds?

Ans: Kisa Gotami learned that every family had experienced the death of a loved one. This helped her understand that sorrow and death are common to all human beings.

36. How does the Buddha's approach to helping Kisa Gotami reflect compassion and wisdom?

Ans: Instead of directly advising her, the Buddha guided Kisa Gotami to discover the truth herself. This compassionate and wise approach helped her realise that death is a universal reality and enabled her to accept her loss.

37. Why does the poet think young men love Anne Gregory?

Ans: The poet believes that young men love Anne Gregory for her outward beauty, especially her golden hair. Their love is based more on appearance than on her inner qualities.

38. The young woman's hair is yellow coloured. She is ready to change her hair colour to another colour. Why would she want to do so?

Ans. The young woman is willing to do so because she wants to be loved for her nature and her inner self rather than for her appearance. Furthermore, she wishes to be loved for her inner beauty rather than her yellow hair color.

39. What are Anne's views on external beauty?

Ans. Anne Gregory does not value external beauty and wishes to be loved for who she is. She claims that her beautiful hair, which attracts so many men, can be changed and coloured in various ways. This demonstrates Anne's belief that external beauty is unimportant and changeable.

40. What do Lomov and Natalya quarrel about first?

Ans: Lomov and Natalya first quarrel about the ownership of Oxen Meadows. Each of them claims that the land belongs to their family.

41. What health condition does Lomov have?

Ans: Lomov suffers from heart palpitations and nervousness. He constantly complains about these problems, which make him anxious and weak in stressful situations.

42. How is the title of the play "The Proposal" both ironic and suitable?

Ans: The title is suitable because the play centers on Lomov visiting his neighbor to ask for Natalya's hand in marriage. It is ironic because the characters spend the entire time fighting over petty issues like land and dogs instead of being romantic.

Supplementary Reader

43. Why did Dr. Herriot refuse to give Tricki any food for the first two days at the surgery?

Ans: Dr. Herriot did not give Tricki any food for the first two days because he wanted his digestive system to recover from the effects of overfeeding. This helped Tricki regain his health without the need for medicines.

44. How did the other dogs at the surgery influence Tricki's recovery?

Ans: The other dogs were active and playful, which encouraged Tricki to move around and join them. This increased his physical activity and helped him regain his strength and vitality.

45. How did Mrs. Pumphrey show her concern for Tricki while he was at the surgery?

Ans: Mrs. Pumphrey showed her concern by calling Dr. Herriot frequently to enquire about Tricki's health. She also sent eggs, wine, and brandy, believing they would help him regain his strength.

46. What makes the thief feel guilty after stealing Anil's money?

Ans: The thief feels guilty because Anil had trusted him completely and treated him with kindness. This makes him realise that stealing from such a person is wrong.

47**.** What made Hari Singh go back to Anil's house?

Ans. Hari Singh decided to go back to Anil's house because he realised the importance of the education he was receiving from Anil. He knew that learning to read and write and being a literate person would open doors to many opportunities. He was sure that he would then be able to earn more than a few hundred rupees he had in hand at that time.

48. How was Hari Singh's 'appealing smile' at the end different from his similar smiles on earlier occasions?

Ans. Hari Singh's 'appealing smile' at the end is different from his similar smiles on earlier occasions. Earlier, his smiles were fake and artificial. They were full of flattery that aimed to fulfill his goal. But in the end, his smile was real; it was natural and appealing.

49. How did Horace Danby plan his robberies, and why was he considered an unusual thief?

Ans: Horace Danby carefully planned every robbery and avoided using violence. He stole only once a year to support his passion for buying rare books. This made him different from ordinary thieves.

50. Why did Horace Danby believe the young lady he met at Shotover Grange?

Ans: Horace Danby believed the young lady who pretended to be the owner's wife because she behaved confidently and spoke naturally. She cleverly deceived him into opening the safe, after making him believe she had forgotten the combination to the safe.

51. What is the irony at the end of the story "A Question of Trust"?

Ans: The irony lies in the phrase "honour among thieves." Horace, a professional thief, was outsmarted and betrayed by another thief. He is now in prison for a crime he technically committed, but for which he gained nothing.

52. How was Griffin a lawless man?

Ans: Griffin was lawless because he committed many anti-social deeds without guilt. He set fire to his landlord's house, stole food and clothes from a London store, robbed a theatrical shop, attacked a shopkeeper, and burgled a clergyman's house to pay his bills.

53. According to the text, what specific change in Griffin's financial situation made the villagers suspect he was involved in the burglary?

Ans : Griffin had recently admitted to the villagers that he had no money, but right after the burglary, he suddenly had enough cash to pay his expenses. This sudden change made them suspicious.

54. What exactly did Mrs. Hall do that made Griffin lose his temper and decide to reveal his secret?

Ans: Griffin lost his temper because Mrs. Hall questioned him about the strange events happening in his room and demanded an explanation. He became furious at being questioned.

55. Why was Matilda unhappy with her life?

Ans: Matilda was unhappy because she desired a life of wealth and luxury. She felt dissatisfied with her simple middle-class lifestyle.

56. How did the necklace change the life of the Loisels?

Ans: The Loisels' life changed after replacing the lost necklace with a new one, as the couple had to repay all the money that they had borrowed to buy the new necklace. They had to live life in hardship because of the situation brought up by the incident. They sent away the maid and changed their lodgings. Mrs Loisel had to do all the household chores to survive then.

57. How does "The Necklace" teaches a moral lesson on the importance of contentment?

Ans. The story "The Necklace" teaches a powerful moral lesson on the importance of finding contentment in what one already has. Matilda's desire for social status and material possessions led to her own downfall and a decade of hardship. Had Matilda simply been grateful and content with all that she had, she could have avoided a lot of pain.

58. Why was Bholi considered a backward child?

Ans. Bholi was considered a backward child because people believed that the fall from a cot when she was ten months old had affected her brain. Later, she developed a stammer, and the pockmarks left by smallpox added to this impression. As a result, everyone regarded her as a backward child.

59. What kind of mother was Ramal's wife?

Ans. Ramlal's wife (Bholi's mother) was a traditional housewife who believed that daughters should not be educated as it would be difficult to find grooms for them. She neglected Bholi as she was ugly and speech-impaired, and wanted to get rid of her by marrying her off to just anyone.

60**.** Why are Bholi's first day of school and her wedding day considered major turning points in her life?

Ans: The first day of school marked the beginning of her self-discovery and education, replacing her fear with confidence. Her wedding day was the ultimate test where she applied her education—she found the courage to speak out against a social evil and stand up for her own rights.

Long Answer type Questions (5 marks each)

1. How did Lencho's hope for rain turn into despair?

Ans: While Lencho was having dinner, it began to rain. He went outside to enjoy the rain. He compared the raindrops to new coins, believing that the rain would bring prosperity. He saw his field of ripe corn covered with a curtain of rain.

However, suddenly strong winds began to blow and large hailstones started to fall. For an hour, hailstones continued to fall heavily. The field soon looked white, as if it had been covered with salt. The corn crop was completely destroyed. When the storm passed, Lencho stood in the middle of the field and realized that all his hard work had been wasted. He sadly told his sons that they would go hungry that year and that there was no one who could help them.

2. How does the ironic ending of 'A Letter to God' highlight the central message of the story?

Ans: The ending of 'A Letter to God' is ironic because Lencho accuses the very people who helped him of stealing his money. After the hailstorm destroys his crops, he writes to God asking for one hundred pesos. Moved by his unwavering faith, the postmaster, along with his employees and friends, collects seventy pesos and sends the money anonymously. However, when Lencho receives only seventy pesos, he is convinced that God could never have sent him less than the amount he had requested. Instead of appreciating the kindness shown to him, he assumes that the post office employees have stolen the remaining thirty pesos and calls them "a bunch of crooks."

This irony highlights the contrast between reality and Lencho's perception.

While his faith in God remains absolute, he fails to recognise the generosity of the people who helped him. Through this ironic ending, the author conveys that genuine kindness often comes through ordinary people and should be recognised and appreciated. The story also suggests that unquestioning faith, when accompanied by mistaken assumptions, can lead a person to misjudge the good intentions of others.

3. How does the poem 'Fire and Ice' show that extreme human behaviour can lead to the end of the world?

Ans: In the poem 'Fire and Ice', Robert Frost effectively shows how extreme human behaviour can lead to the destruction of the world. He uses the powerful symbols of fire and ice to represent two dangerous human emotions. Fire symbolises uncontrolled desire, passion, and greed. When these emotions grow beyond limits, they make people selfish and aggressive, leading to conflict, violence, and destruction.

On the other hand, ice represents hatred, cruelty, indifference, and emotional coldness. These negative feelings destroy love, compassion, and mutual understanding among people, gradually breaking down relationships and society.

The poet suggests that both desire and hatred are equally destructive and can ultimately lead to the end of the world. Through these symbols, he warns that if such extreme emotions are left unchecked, they can destroy both individuals and society.

4. How does the young seagull's first flight show that fear can be overcome through courage, confidence, and self-belief?

Ans: In the beginning of the story, the young seagull is afraid to fly because he fears that his wings will not support him. Even though his parents, brothers, and sister encourage him to fly, he remains on the ledge while the others learn to soar in the sky. His fear prevents him from trusting his own abilities.
When the seagull becomes extremely hungry, his mother cleverly tempts him with a piece of fish. In his eagerness to get the food, he jumps off the ledge. At first, he feels as though he is falling, but soon his wings spread automatically and begin to support him. He discovers that he can fly with ease. His fear disappears and is replaced by joy and confidence.
The story teaches that fear is often only a mental barrier. Confidence comes through experience and action rather than by waiting for fear to disappear. Once we believe in ourselves and take the first step, we often realize that we are far more capable than we imagined. The story inspires readers to face challenges courageously and develop self-confidence through practice and determination.

5. How did the seagull's family help him learn to fly, and do you consider their seemingly harsh behavior to be ultimately caring and justified?

Ans: The seagull's family helped him learn to fly by refusing to encourage his fear. While his brothers and sister learned to fly successfully, he stayed behind because he was afraid. His parents first tried to persuade him, but when he still refused, they stopped feeding him and left him alone on the

ledge. Seeing his hunger, his mother tempted him with a piece of fish but held it just out of his reach. Driven by hunger, the young seagull jumped toward the food. As he fell, he instinctively spread his wings and discovered that he could fly. His family then flew around him, encouraged him with joyful cries, and welcomed him proudly.

Although their behavior seemed harsh, it was ultimately caring and justified. They understood that he had the ability to fly but lacked confidence. Their tough approach forced him to overcome his fear, helping him gain self-belief, independence, and an essential life skill.

6. How does 'The Black Aeroplane' show that hope, courage, and presence of mind, along with unexpected help, can save a person in a crisis? Support your answer with reference tothe pilot's experience.

Ans: The story 'The Black Aeroplane' shows that hope, courage, and presence of mind, along with unexpected help, can save a person in a life-threatening situation. The pilot of the Dakota aircraft gets caught in a severe storm while flying from France to England. The sky turns dark, visibility drops to zero, and all instruments stop working, leaving him completely lost. Despite the danger, he shows courage by continuing to fly and does not lose hope. He also uses his presence of mind to stay calm and keep control of the aircraft.

At the height of the crisis, a mysterious black aeroplane appears and silently guides him through the storm. Trusting it, the pilot follows its direction and is safely led out of danger. After landing, he learns that no other aircraft was seen in the sky, which adds a sense of mystery. Thus, the story highlights that inner strength and unexpected help can together save a person in extreme danger.

7. Describe the appearance of the strange black aeroplane in the most hopeless situation. How did the pilot of the black aeroplane help the narrator to come out of the storm clouds and land safely?

Answer: The narrator was really in deep trouble. The huge mountains of black clouds were around him. The old Dakota aeroplane was jumping and twisting in the air. His compass was dead. The other instruments were dead too. Nothing worked for him. Even his efforts to contact Paris control failed. The radio was dead too. In such a hopeless situation, the sudden appearance of a mysterious black aeroplane was like God's sent help for him. There were no lights on the wings of that black aeroplane. The narrator could see the pilot's face. He was saying "Follow me". The narrator was totally lost. He thought that the pilot was trying to help him. So he followed the black aeroplane like an obedient child. He was frightened as he had fuel enough to last for five or ten minutes. Suddenly, he came out of the clouds. He saw two long straight lines of lights in front of him. It was a runway. "An airport!" he cried. He was out of danger and could land safely. He turned to look for his rescuer in the black aeroplane, but the sky was empty.

8. Explain how "The Ball Poem" presents learning through experience rather than instruction.

Ans: *"The Ball Poem"* shows that real learning comes through personal experience rather than direct instruction. When the boy loses his ball, he feels deep sorrow and helplessness because the ball represents his memories and attachment. The poet does not try to remove his pain or offer easy consolation. Instead, he allows the boy to face the reality of the loss.

Through this experience, the boy learns that loss is an unavoidable part of life and

that material things, once lost, cannot always be replaced emotionally. He also begins to understand the importance of accepting responsibility and dealing with disappointment. The poem reflects the process of growing up, as maturity often develops through such painful experiences. Thus, the poet emphasizes that true understanding and emotional growth come from facing life's realities rather than being taught through advice alone.

9. "Paper has more patience than people." Explain this statement in the light of Anne Frank's decision to write a diary.

Ans: Anne Frank believed that paper is more patient than people because it is a silent, non-judgmental listener. Unlike human beings, who may get bored, impatient, or offer unwanted advice and criticism, a diary allows one to express their innermost thoughts without fear of being misunderstood or mocked. Anne had a loving family and many friends, but she lacked a true confidant with whom she could share her deepest secrets and vulnerabilities. She felt that people often listen only superficially, whereas paper "waits" for the writer to pour their heart out completely. By naming her diary "Kitty," she personified it, turning an ordinary object into a loyal friend. This decision highlights her emotional maturity and her need for a safe space to express her frustrations and joys during a period of intense loneliness.

10. How does Anne Frank's diary become more than just a notebook, and what does her experience teach young people about self-awareness, emotional well-being, and the importance of expressing their thoughts and feelings?

Ans: Anne Frank's diary became much more than an ordinary notebook because it was her trusted companion. She named it "Kitty" and shared her deepest thoughts, fears, dreams, and emotions with it. Since she found it difficult to confide in others, writing in her diary helped her understand herself better and cope with loneliness.

The diary gave Anne emotional support during challenging times. It encouraged her to reflect on her experiences, express her feelings honestly, and develop confidence and inner strength. Through this habit, she became more self-aware and emotionally resilient.

Anne's experience teaches young people that expressing emotions in a healthy way is important for mental and emotional well-being. Writing a journal, talking to trusted family members or friends, or engaging in creative activities can help reduce stress and improve self-understanding. It also highlights the value of honest communication and self-reflection in personal growth. Anne's diary reminds us that understanding our emotions and expressing them constructively helps us face challenges with courage, hope, and resilience.

11. How does the poem 'Amanda!' highlight the importance of understanding a child's emotions and need for freedom?

Ans: In 'Amanda!', the poet highlights the importance of understanding a child's emotions and need for freedom. Amanda is constantly instructed and corrected by her mother about her behaviour, posture, and habits. These repeated instructions make her feel restricted, misunderstood, and deprived of personal freedom. To escape this pressure, she retreats into an imaginary world where she imagines herself as a mermaid, an orphan, and Rapunzel. Each fantasy symbolises her longing for peace, independence, and freedom from constant control. Through Amanda's imagination, the poet shows that children have their own feelings, dreams, and emotional needs. The poem

suggests that while parents should guide and discipline their children, they should also be patient, empathetic, and respect their individuality. Such a balance between discipline and understanding helps children develop confidence, emotional security, and a healthy relationship with their parents. Thus, the poem emphasises that children need both guidance and emotional support to grow into confident and responsible individuals.

12. Describe how Rajvir's curiosity and eagerness to learn more about tea benefit the readers of the story "Tea from Assam".

Ans: Rajvir's curiosity and eagerness to learn help the readers understand the history and facts about tea easily. Since he is visiting Assam for the first time, his excitement makes the journey interesting. Before his trip, he did a lot of research. Through him, readers learn about the famous stories of how tea was discovered. This includes the Chinese story of the emperor and the Indian story of the monk Bodhidharma.

Rajvir shares historical facts about tea, saying that tea was first drunk in China as far back as 2700 BC. It came to Europe only in the sixteenth century and that it was drunk more as medicine than as a beverage.

Rajvir also shares important facts about tea farming. For example, he mentions that the best tea is collected during the second harvest season between May and July. His smart questions make Pranjol's father share even more information about the tea garden. By asking questions like a curious student, Rajvir acts like a guide for the readers. He turns a simple travel story into an exciting and easy lesson about tea.

13. How does the chapter "Tea from Assam" blend factual information with folklore to engage the reader?

Ans: The chapter "Tea from Assam" blends factual information with folklore in an engaging way. On one hand, it provides factual details about tea cultivation, such as the vast tea gardens described as a "sea of tea bushes," the neatly maintained rows of plants, and the process of pruning that helps produce high-quality tea leaves. It also highlights Assam's importance as one of the largest tea-producing regions in the world, giving the reader useful knowledge about tea production.

On the other hand, the chapter includes folklore that adds charm and curiosity to the narrative. The Chinese legend explains the discovery of tea when leaves accidentally fell into boiling water and created a refreshing drink. Along with this, the Indian legend describes how the Buddhist ascetic, Bodhidharma, cut off his eyelids to avoid sleep during meditation, and from the eyelids that fell to the ground, tea plants are said to have grown.

By combining factual information with these legends, the author makes the chapter both informative and interesting. The facts educate the reader about tea cultivation, while the legends add cultural richness and make the narrative more engaging and memorable.

14. How does Adrienne Rich use the image of trees leaving the house to convey her message about the relationship between humans and nature? Explain with reference to the poem.

Ans: In the poem, "*The Trees*", Adrienne Rich uses the powerful image of trees leaving the house and returning to the forest to highlight the importance of restoring nature to its rightful place. The trees symbolize the natural world that has been confined and controlled by human beings. Their movement out of the house suggests nature's strong desire to break free from artificial boundaries and regain its freedom. The poet describes the roots disengaging themselves from the cracks in the veranda floor, the leaves straining toward the glass, and the branches shuffling under the roof. This shows that nature has the strength and determination to overcome obstacles.

As the trees return, the empty forest becomes alive again, symbolizing ecological balance and renewal. Through this imagery, the poet reminds readers that human progress should not come at the cost of the environment. The poem creates awareness about environmental conservation and urges people to respect nature's independence. It conveys that humans and nature can coexist only when the natural world is allowed to flourish in its own space.

15. How does the author present Valli as a determined and independent child? Support your answer with examples from the story.

Ans: Valli is presented as a determined and independent eight-year-old girl. She develops a strong desire to ride the bus to the nearby town and patiently gathers all the necessary information by listening carefully to the conversations of others. She saves sixty paise by avoiding unnecessary expenses such as buying toys, peppermints, and visiting the village fair. She plans her journey wisely by choosing the afternoon when her mother is asleep. During the journey, she behaves confidently and politely, refusing unnecessary help and insisting that she is capable of managing on her own. She also sticks to her plan of remaining on the bus and returning without getting off in the town. Through these actions, the author portrays Valli as a confident, responsible, and independent child whose determination helps her fulfil her dream.

16. How does Valli's bus journey reflect her growth from curiosity to emotional maturity? Support your answer with incidents from the story.

Ans: Valli's bus journey shows her growth from simple curiosity to emotional maturity. At first, her fascination with the bus develops into a strong desire to visit the town. She carefully gathers information about the distance and fare and saves money by giving up small pleasures, showing determination and responsibility. During the journey, she is full of excitement. She enjoys the scenery and laughs joyfully at the sight of a running cow, revealing her innocence. However, on the return journey, she sees the same cow lying dead on the roadside. This sight makes her silent and thoughtful, as she realises that life can change suddenly. Thus, the journey becomes a meaningful experience that deepens her understanding of life and marks her emotional growth. The story shows that real experiences teach valuable lessons and help a person grow wiser and more mature.

17. How does the poem highlight the difference between true bravery and false boasting?

Ans: The poem highlights the difference between true bravery and false boasting through the behavior of Belinda's other pets and Custard. Belinda, Ink, Blink, and Mustard constantly boast about their courage and laugh at Custard, calling him a coward. Their bravery exists only in words.
However, when the pirate suddenly enters, their claims prove false. All of them become frightened and run away to save themselves. In contrast, Custard, who is always considered a coward, shows real courage. He faces the pirate fearlessly, attacks him, and ultimately kills him. Thus, the poem clearly shows that true bravery is proved through actions in times of danger, while false boasting is empty and meaningless. Custard, though mocked, turns out to be the only truly brave character.

18. Describe how Siddhartha became the Buddha and what he taught in his first sermon.

Ans: Siddhartha was born into a royal family, but he was deeply disturbed after seeing a sick man, an old man, a funeral procession, and a monk begging for alms. These sights made him realise that life is full of suffering and that death is inevitable. Although he lived in great luxury, he left his palace and family in search of the truth. He wandered for seven years seeking knowledge and understanding. Finally, he meditated under a peepal tree and, after seven days of deep meditation, attained enlightenment. From then on, he came to be known as the Buddha.

The Buddha delivered his first sermon at Benares. He taught that life is full of suffering caused by desire and attachment. He explained that death is natural and inevitable, and that sorrow and grief arise because people fail to understand this universal truth. The wise accept death calmly and free themselves from attachment. His teachings encourage people to live with wisdom, compassion, understanding, and inner peace.

19. How does Kisa Gotami's journey from grief to acceptance in 'The Sermon at Benares' show the importance of experience in learning life's truths?

Ans: Kisa Gotami's journey from grief to acceptance shows that true understanding often comes through personal experience rather than mere advice. After the death of her only son, she was overwhelmed with sorrow and refused to accept his death. The Buddha asked her to bring a handful of mustard seeds from a house where no one had ever died. As she went from house to house, she discovered that every family had experienced the loss of a loved one. This made her realise that death is a universal and unavoidable part of life. Her own experience helped her understand the Buddha's teaching more deeply than words alone could. She accepted the truth with wisdom, let go of her grief, and attained inner peace. Thus, her journey highlights the importance of experience in learning life's greatest truths.

20. What is the theme of the poem ' For Anne Gregory'?

Ans. The central theme of the poem 'For Anne Gregory' is that true beauty lies in a person's inner qualities rather than physical appearance. The poem questions society's tendency to judge people, especially women, by their outward looks. Anne Gregory believes that men admire her only because of her beautiful yellow hair and thinks that if she dyes it black, brown, or red, they will no longer find her attractive. However, the poet rejects this idea and suggests that physical beauty is temporary and should not be the basis of love or admiration. He believes that a person's character and inner qualities are

far more valuable than outward appearance. Through the poem, W. B. Yeats criticises society's obsession with external beauty and reminds us that inner beauty is lasting and deserves greater appreciation.

21. Why does Lomov decide to marry Natalya despite not being in love with her, and what does this reveal about the marriage norms of his society?

Ans: Lomov decides to marry Natalya purely out of practical and calculated reasons rather than love because he believes he has reached a critical turning point in his life. At thirty-five years old, he feels intense pressure to settle down and lead a quiet, regular life, especially given his constant health anxieties and heart palpitations. He views Natalya not as a romantic partner, but as a suitable match who fulfills all his practical criteria, noting that she is an excellent housekeeper, well-educated, and decent-looking. Furthermore, their families own adjoining estates, making the marriage a perfect economic opportunity to merge their lands and increase their collective wealth.

This transactional approach to marriage reveals that 19th-century Russian upper-class society viewed matrimony as a business merger rather than an emotional union. Wealth, property, and social status were prioritized far above mutual affection or compatibility. There was immense social pressure to marry by a certain age to avoid social stigma and secure financial stability. Because these alliances were built entirely on material gains rather than love, relationships lacked genuine understanding and respect. This underlying greed is exactly why Lomov and Natalya repeatedly descend into vicious, immature shouting matches over trivial matters like land ownership and hunting dogs, proving that their society valued pride and possessions over human connection.

22. In the play "The Proposal" by Anton Chekhov, marriage is presented more as a matter of social status and economic gain than love or understanding. How does the behaviour of Lomov and Natalya during their proposal meeting reflect this attitude? What does the play suggest about human nature and relationships?

Ans: In "The Proposal", Anton Chekhov presents marriage as a social and economic arrangementrather than a bond based on love. This is clearly reflected in the behaviour of Lomov and Natalya during their meeting.

Lomov comes to propose to Natalya, but instead of expressing affection, he becomes nervous and starts arguing over trivial issues like the ownership of Oxen Meadows. Natalya, instead of focusing on the proposal, strongly insists that the land belongs to her family. Their conversation quickly turns into a heated argument, showing how material possessions dominate their thinking.

Even when the proposal is revealed, both of them continue to argue, and their personal conflict over shadows the purpose of the visit. It is only through the intervention of Chubukov that they finally agree to marry, but even then, they immediately start quarrelling again over petty issues like their dogs.

The play highlights the absurdity of human behaviour, showing how pride, greed, and ego can overpower reason and emotion. It satirically suggests that in such a society, marriage decisions are influenced more by property and social standing than by love or compatibility.

Extract Based Questions
(4 marks each)
Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow: (1x4)

1. It was during the meal that, just as Lencho had predicted, big drops of rain began to fall. In the north east huge mountains of clouds could be seen approaching. The air was fresh and sweet. The man went out for no other reason than to have the pleasure of feeling the rain on his body.

(a) When did the big drops of rain begin to fall?
Ans: It was during the meal that, just as Lencho had predicted, big drops of rain began to fall.

(b) What could be seen approaching in the north-east?
Ans: In the north-east sky, huge mountains of clouds could be seen approaching.

(c) What did Lencho predict?
Ans: Lencho predicted that it would rain that day.

(d) Why did Lencho go out?
Ans: Lencho went out for no other reason than to have the pleasure of feeling the rain on his body.

2. “So, in order not to shake the writer's faith in God, the postmaster came up with an idea: answer the letter. But when he opened it, it was evident that to answer it he needed something more than goodwill, ink and paper. But he stuck to his resolution: he asked for money from his employees..."

(a) Why did the postmaster decide to answer the letter?
Ans: The postmaster decided to answer the letter to ensure that the writer's deep faith in God was not shaken.

(b) What three things were not enough to answer the letter once the postmaster opened it?
Ans: The three things which were not enough to answer the letter were goodwill, ink, and paper.

(c) What was the postmaster's "resolution" mentioned in the text?
Ans: The postmaster's "resolution" mentioned in the text was his decision to answer the letter.

(d) From whom did the postmaster ask for money to fulfil his resolution?
Ans: To fulfil his resolution, the postmaster decided to ask for money from his employees as well as his friends, and he also gave a part of his own salary.

3. “From what I’ve tasted of desire
I hold with those who favour fire.”

(a) Which emotion does “fire” symbolise?
Ans: Fire symbolises desire, passion, and greed.

(b) Whose opinion does the poet agree with?
Ans: The poet agrees with those who believe that the world will end in fire.

(c) What experience does the poet refer to in these lines?
Ans: The poet refers to his personal experience and understanding of human desire.

(d) What is the main idea expressed in these lines?
Ans: The lines emphasise that desire is a powerful force capable of causing destruction.

4. “And all the morning the whole family had walked about on the big plateau midway down the opposite cliff taunting him with his cowardice.”

(a) Where had the young seagull’s family gathered?
Ans: The young seagull’s family had gathered on the big plateau midway down the opposite cliff.

(b) How did the family spend their morning?
Ans: They spent the whole morning walking about on the plateau.

(c) What did the family do to the young seagull?
Ans: The family taunted and mocked the young seagull for his cowardice.

(d) Why was the young seagull being taunted by his family?
Ans: The young seagull was being taunted because he was afraid to fly, whereas his brothers and sister had already learned to fly.

5. "Maddened by hunger, he dived at the fish. With a loud scream, he fell outwards and downwards into space. Then a monstrous terror seized him and his heart stood still. But his wings spread outwards. The wind rushed against his breast feathers, then under his stomach and against his wings."

(a) Why did the young seagull dive towards the fish?
Ans: The young seagull dived towards the fish because he was extremely hungry and wanted to eat it.

(b) What happened when he jumped off the ledge?
Ans: When the young seagull jumped off the ledge, he began to fall but instinctively spread his wings.

(c) How did the wind help the young seagull?
Ans: The wind supported his wings and enabled him to fly.

(d) What is the main idea of this extract?
Ans: The main idea is that the young seagull overcomes his fear and discovers his ability to fly.

6. Inside the clouds, everything was suddenly black. It was impossible to see anything outside the aeroplane.
The old aeroplane jumped and twisted in the air. I looked at the compass. I couldn't believe my eyes: the compass was turning round and round and round. It was dead. It would not work! The other instruments were suddenly dead, too. I tried the radio.
"Paris Control? Paris Control? Can you hear me?" There was no answer. The radio was dead too. I had no radio, no compass, and I could not see where I was.
I was lost in the storm.

(a) Why was the narrator unable to see where he was going?
Ans: The narrator was unable to see where he was going because he was inside thick storm clouds where everything was completely black and dark.

(b) What happened to the narrator’s instruments like the compass and the radio?
Ans: They stopped working completely and became "dead" due to the severe storm.

(c) Who did the narrator try to call for help when he got lost?
Ans: He tried to call "Paris Control" on his radio.

(d) How did the old aeroplane behave inside the storm clouds?
Ans: The aeroplane jumped and twisted violently in the air because of the strong wind.

7. Suddenly, I came out of the clouds and saw two long straight lines of lights in front of me. It was a runway! An airport! I was safe! turned to look for my friend in the black aeroplane, but the sky was empty. There was nothing there. The black aeroplane was gone. could not see it anywhere.

(a) Why does the narrator call the pilot of the black aeroplane his "friend"?
Ans: The unknown pilot had just guided him safely out of the terrifying storm, so the narrator naturally felt a deep sense of gratitude and connection toward him.

(b) What did the "two long straight lines of lights" mean for the narrator?
Ans: They meant he had found an airport runway, bringing him sudden relief, hope, and safety after a near-death experience.

(c) Why was the narrator shocked when he looked back at the sky?
Ans: He was shocked because the black aeroplane that just helped him had suddenly vanished completely, leaving the sky entirely empty.

(d) What mystery does the ending of this extract create in the reader's mind?
Ans: It makes the reader wonder whether the black aeroplane was real, a ghost, or just a figment of the narrator's imagination.

8. “What is the boy now, who has lost his ball,
What, what is he to do?”

(a) What has the boy lost?
Ans: The boy has lost his ball.

(b) What does the repetition of “what” show?
Ans: The repetition of “what” shows the boy’s confusion, shock, and helplessness after losing his ball.

(c) What emotion is the boy experiencing?
Ans: The boy is experiencing deep grief and sorrow.

(d) What theme is introduced here?
Ans: The theme of loss and helplessness is introduced here.

9. "Our entire class is quaking in its boots. The reason, of course, is the forthcoming meeting in which the teachers decide who’ll move up to the next form and who’ll be kept back."

(a) Why was the class "quaking in its boots"?
Ans: The class was quaking in its boots because they were nervous about the year-end results.

(b) What process was followed to decide the exam results?
Ans: The teachers’ meeting would decide who would move up to the next form and who would be kept back.

(c) Does Anne Frank share in the nervousness of her classmates?
Ans: No, unlike most of her classmates, Anne was not worried.

(d) Which word in the extract means the same as ‘shaking’?
Ans: The word ‘quaking’ means the same as ‘shaking ’.

10. "To enhance the image of this long-awaited friend in my imagination, I don’t want to jot down the facts in this diary the way most people would do, but I want the diary to be my friend, and I’m going to call this friend ‘Kitty’."

(a) Who is the "long-awaited friend" referred to in these lines?
Ans: The long awaited friend referred to here is the diary, which Anne Frank later named 'Kitty'.

(b) How does Anne's diary differ from the way most people write diaries?
Ans: Anne's diary is different because she treats it as a true friend rather than just listing facts.

(c) What name does Anne give to her diary?
Ans: 'Kitty' is the name given by Anne to her diary.

(d) Find a word in the extract that means 'to write down quickly'.
Ans: The word 'jot down' has the same meaning as 'to write down quickly'.

11. "(There is a languid, emerald sea,
Where the sole inhabitant is me—
A mermaid, drifting blissfully)"

(a) What do the brackets signify?
Ans: The brackets signify Amanda's inner thoughts and imagination.

(b) Who is a mermaid?
Ans: A mermaid is a mythical sea creature with the upper body of a human and the tail of a fish.

(c) What would Amanda do as a mermaid?
Ans: As a mermaid, Amanda would drift blissfully in the calm sea and enjoy a peaceful, carefree life.

(d) What does the phrase "sole inhabitant" suggest?
Ans: It suggests that Amanda is completely alone in her imaginary world, free from any interference or restrictions.

12. "This is the second-flush or sprouting period, isn't it, Mr. Barua?" Rajvir asked. "It lasts from May to July and yields the best tea." "You seem to have done your homework before coming," Pranjol's father said in surprise.

(a) Who is Mr. Barua?
Ans: Mr. Barua is Pranjol's father and the manager of Dhekiabari Tea Estate.

(b) What is the duration of the second-flush period?
Ans: The second-flush period is from May to July.

(c) Why was Mr. Barua surprised?
Ans: Mr. Barua was surprised because Rajvir, a young visitor, had so much knowledge about tea harvesting.

(d) What is significant about the "second-flush" tea?
Ans: It is known to yield the best quality tea.

13. "Tea came to Europe only in the sixteenth century and was drunk more as medicine than as a beverage." Rajvir added, "The words 'chai' and 'chini' are from Chinese. Tea was first drunk in China."

(a) When did tea come to Europe?
Ans: Tea came to Europe in the sixteenth century.

(b) For what purpose was tea first used in Europe?
Ans: Tea was first used as medicine rather than as a beverage.

(c) From which language do the words "chai" and "chini" come?
Ans: These words come from the Chinese language.

(d) Find a word from the extract that means 'a drink'.
Ans: The word from the extract that means 'a drink' is ‘beverage’.

14. " My head is full of whispers
which tomorrow will be silent.
Listen. The glass is breaking.
The trees are stumbling forward..."

(a) What is the poet’s head full of?
Ans: The poet’s head is full of **whispers.**

(b)What sound indicates that the trees are escaping?
Ans: The sound of breaking glass indicates that the trees are escaping from the house.

(c) In which direction are the trees moving?
Ans: The trees are stumbling forward towards the forest.

(d) When will the whispers become silent?
Ans: The whispers will become silent the next morning.

15**.** “Never mind,” she said, “I can get on by myself. You don’t have to help me.”

(a) Who is speaking these words?
Ans: These words are spoken by Valli, the eight-year-old girl who is travelling alone on the bus for the first time.

(b) To whom are these words addressed?
Ans: These words are addressed to the bus conductor, who offers to help Valli get onto the bus.

(c) Which quality of the speaker is reflected in these words?
Ans: These words reflect Valli’s confidence and independence.

(d) Why does the listener smile after hearing this reply?
Ans: The bus conductor smiles because he is amused by Valli’s confidence and grown-up behaviour.

16. “The memory of the dead cow haunted her, dampening her enthusiasm. She no longer wanted to look out the window”

(a) What had happened to the cow?
Ans: The cow had been hit by a fast-moving vehicle and was lying dead by the roadside.

(b) Why did the memory haunt Valli?
Ans: The memory haunted Valli because she had seen earlier the same cow running playfully in front of the bus.

(c) How did this incident change her mood?
Ans: Valli’s excitement disappeared, and she became quiet and thoughtful.

(d) What deeper realisation does this incident suggest?
Ans: It suggests that Valli begins to understand the reality that life can suddenly change.

17. Pistol in his left hand, pistol in his right, And he held in his teeth a cutlass bright,
His beard was black, one leg was wood;
It was clear that the pirate meant no good.

(a) What kind of person does the pirate seem to be based on his appearance?
Ans: His terrifying look and heavy weapons show that he is a dangerous criminal who has come to attack or harm the household.

(b) Why do you think the pirate was carrying weapons in both his hands and his teeth?
Ans: He wanted to look as frightening as possible and be fully prepared to fight anyone who tried to stop him.

(c) How does the description show that the pirate is an experienced fighter?
Ans: Details like his wooden leg and the sword held in his teeth suggest he has survived many violent battles in the past.

(d) "It was clear that the pirate meant no good." What makes his bad intentions so obvious?
Ans: The fact that he broke in heavily armed with pistols and a sharp blade immediately gives away his violent plans.

18. "As all earthen vessels made by the potter end in being broken, so is the life of mortals. Both young and adult, both those who are fools and those who are wise, all fall into the power of death; all are subject to death."

(a) What does the Buddha compare human life to in the extract?
Ans: The Buddha compares human life to earthen vessels made by a potter.

(b) According to the extract, who is subject to death?
Ans: Everyone is subject to death, whether young or old, wise or foolish.

(c) What is the fate of all earthen vessels made by the potter, according to the extract?
Ans: All earthen vessels eventually break.

(d) What universal truth about life does the Buddha convey through this extract?
Ans: The Buddha conveys that death is inevitable and that all human beings are subject to it.

19. "So the world is afflicted with death and decay, therefore the wise do not grieve, knowing the terms of the world."

(a) Who spoke these words and to whom?
Ans: These words were spoken by the Buddha to Kisa Gotami.

(b) What does "afflicted" mean?
Ans: The word "afflicted" means suffering or deeply affected by something painful.

(c) What are "the terms of the world"?
Ans: It refers to the universal truth that birth and death are unavoidable.

(d) How can this teaching help someone today?
Ans: This teaching can help someone today by encouraging them to accept loss calmly and understand that death is a natural part of life.

20. "Never shall a young man, Thrown into despair By those great honey-coloured Ramparts at your ear."

(a) What do the words," honey-coloured Ramparts" refer to?
Ans: It refers to Anne Gregory's beautiful golden hair.

(b) Who is being addressed in these lines?
Ans: Anne Gregory is being addressed in these lines.

(c) What does this description suggest about Anne Gregory?
Ans: It suggests that Anne Gregory's golden hair is highly attractive and draws the attention of young men.

(d) What theme is introduced in this extract?
Ans: The extract introduces the theme of outer beauty and its influence on love.

21. “My heart’s palpitating awfully. My foot’s gone to sleep. There’s something that keeps pulling in my side ....”

(a) Who speaks these words and to whom?
Ans: Ivan Vassilevitch Lomov speaks these words to Natalya Stepanovna.

(b) What symptoms does the speaker mention in the extract?
Ans: Lomov mentions heart palpitations, numbness in his foot, and a pulling pain in his side.

(c) Why does the speaker complain about his health at this moment?
Ans: Lomov complains about his health because he becomes highly agitated during the argument, and the stress of the quarrel worsens his weak condition.

(d) What does this extract reveal about the speaker’s character?
Ans: This extract shows that Lomov is nervous, anxious, and overly conscious about his health, especially under stress.

22. .” But, please, Stephen Stepanovitch, how can they be yours? Do be a reasonable man ! My aunt's grandmother gave the Meadows for the temporary and free use of your grandfather's peasants. The peasants used the land for forty years and got accustomed to it as if it was their own, when it happened that .....

(a) What is the main reason behind the misunderstanding about the ownership of the Meadows?
Ans: The misunderstanding arose because Natalya’s ancestors had allowed Lomov’s grandfather’s peasants to use the Meadows temporarily, but they later began to regard them as their own.

(b) Why does the speaker ask Stephen Stepanovitch to “be a reasonable man”?
Ans: Natalya asks Stephen Stepanovitch to be reasonable because she believes the Meadows rightfully belong to her family.

(c) How does this extract show that a small favour in the past created a major problem for the next generation?
Ans: A temporary favour of allowing the peasants to use the Meadows eventually led to a bitter dispute between Natalya and Lomov.
(d) What does the peasants getting "accustomed to it as if it was their own" tell us about human nature?
Ans: It shows that when people use something for a very long time without any rules, they naturally develop a false sense of ownership over it.

Supplementary Reader

23. “It was a temptation to keep Tricki on as a permanent guest, but I knew Mrs Pumphrey was suffering and after a fortnight, felt compelled to phone and tell her that the little dog had recovered and was awaiting collection.”

(a) Why was it a temptation for Dr. Herriot to keep Tricki on as a permanent guest?
Ans: It was a temptation because Mrs. Pumphrey kept sending eggs, wine, and brandy for Tricki, which Dr. Herriot and his partners enjoyed.

(b) Why did Dr. Herriot not keep him as a permanent guest?
Ans: Dr. Herriot did not keep him as a permanent guest because he knew Mrs. Pumphrey was suffering with worry over her dog and it would be unfair to keep Tricki away from her any longer.

(c) What does the phrase “felt compelled” suggest about Dr. Herriot?
Ans: It suggests that Dr. Herriot felt morally bound to inform Mrs. Pumphrey that Tricki had recovered.

(d) What does the word “awaiting” mean in the extract?
Ans: The word “awaiting” means waiting for or ready for collection.

24. . "He took me to his room over the Jumna Sweet Shop and told me I could sleep on the balcony. But the meal I cooked that night must have been terrible because Anil gave it to a stray dog and told me to be off. But I just hung around, smiling in my most appealing way, and he couldn't help laughing."

(a)What do Anil's actions tell us about his nature?
Ans: They show that Anil is an extremely kind, patient, and forgiving person who
doesn't get angry easily.

(b) Why did the narrator smile in his "most appealing way"?
Ans: He did it to charm Anil, win his sympathy, and prevent himself from being kicked out of the house.

(c) Why didn't Anil throw the narrator out after realizing he couldn't cook?
Ans:: Anil felt pity for the homeless boy and chose compassion over his own convenience.

(d) What would have happened to the narrator if he had left when told to "be off"?
Ans: He would have remained a homeless, uneducated thief without any chance to reform his life.

25. *"For two days he kept his promise to the kind young lady. On the morning of the third day, however, he thought of the books he wanted and he knew he would have to look for another safe. But he never got the chance to begin his plan."*

(a) What promise had Horace made to the lady?
Ans: Horace had promised the lady that he would not commit any more burglaries if she let him go.

(b)Why did his resolve to keep the promise weaken on the third day?
Ans: His desire to collect rare and expensive books made him feel that he needed money again, which weakened his resolve.

(c) What happened before he could plan another robbery?
Ans: He was arrested by the police in connection with the burglary at Shotover Grange.

(d) Why was he arrested if he hadn’t taken the jewels?
Ans: He was arrested because his fingerprints were found on the safe and throughout the room, proving his involvement in the burglary.

26. “The arrival of a stranger at an inn in winter was in any case an unusual event. A stranger of such uncommon appearance set all tongues wagging. Mrs. Hall made every effort to be friendly. But Griffin had no desire to talk, and told her, ‘My reason for coming to Iping is a desire for solitude. I do not wish to be disturbed in my work.’”

(a) Who is the ‘stranger’ referred to here?
Ans: The stranger is Griffin, the invisible scientist.

(b) Why was the stranger's appearance considered 'uncommon'?
Ans: Griffin wore bandages around his forehead, dark glasses, a false nose, and a large hat that hid his face.

(c) Why did the stranger come to Iping?
Ans: He came to Iping to be alone and to avoid being disturbed in his work.

(d) What phrase in the extract means 'everyone started talking'?
Ans: 'Set all tongues wagging.'

27. One morning, a clergyman and his wife were awakened by noises coming from their study. As they quietly went downstairs, they heard the sound of money being taken from the clergyman's desk. When the clergyman suddenly opened the door, he was astonished to find that the room was empty."

(a) Why did the "empty room" make the theft much more terrifying for the couple than a normal robbery?
Ans: A normal robbery has a visible thief you can defend against, but an empty room meant they were dealing with an invisible, unknown threat they could not see or fight.

(b) What does the couple's decision to creep "quietly downstairs" instead of shouting tell us about their initial assumption?
Ans: It shows they assumed they were dealing with a normal, physical human thief whom they wanted to catch by surprise.

(c) Since Griffin had a brilliant scientific mind, what does his choice to commit a petty house burglary reveal about his character?
Ans: It reveals that despite his high intelligence, he lacked moral values and preferred using his genius for cheap, easy crimes rather than honest work.

(d) How does the opened desk drawer prove that this "invisible force" was still bound by normal human physical limits?
Ans: It proves the thief could not walk through solid objects or make money disappear by magic; he still had to physically open the desk drawer to take the cash.

28. He was silent, stupefied, in dismay, at the sight of his wife weeping. He stammered, "What is the matter?
What is the matter?" By a violent effort, she had controlled her vexation and responded in a calm voice, wiping her moist cheeks, "Nothing. Only I have no dress and consequently I cannot go to this affair. Give your card to some colleague whose wife is better fitted out than I." He was grieved, but answered, "Let us see, Matilda. How much would a suitable costume cost, something that would serve for other occasions, something very simple?" She reflected for some seconds thinking of a sum that she could ask for without refusal and a frightened exclamation from the economical clerk.

(a) Why does Matilda suggest giving the invitation card to a colleague instead?
Ans: She uses reverse psychology to make her husband feel guilty about their financial condition so that he will offer to buy her a new dress.

(b). What does the husband's reaction to his wife's crying tell us about him?
Ans: It shows that he is a genuinely caring, selfless, and loving husband who values his wife's happiness over his own comfort.

(c) Why does Matilda think carefully for a few seconds before naming a price for the dress?
Ans: She is calculating the highest amount of money she can ask for without shocking him into refusing her request.

(d) Why does the text describe the husband as an "economical clerk" at the end?
Ans: It highlights their tight budget, showing that even a simple dress is a huge financial sacrifice for a middle-class man like him.

29. She was not convinced. 'No', she replied, "there is nothing more humiliating than to have a shabby air in the midst of rich women."
Then her husband cried out, "How stupid we are! Go and find your friend Madame Forestier and ask her to lend you her jewels."
She uttered a cry of joy. 'It is true!' she said. "I had not thought of that."

(a) What does Matilda's fear of looking "shabby" among rich women tell us about her character?
Ans: It shows that she is deeply insecure and cares too much about social status, appearances, and what wealthy people think of her.

(b) Why does the husband call himself and Matilda "stupid"?
Ans: He realizes they were stressing out over a problem that had a very simple, cost-free solution right in front of them.

(c) Why does Matilda call Madame Forestier her "friend" only when she needs to borrow jewellery?
Ans: It highlights her materialistic nature, showing that she values the relationship more because of Madame Forestier's wealthy background and expensive belongings.

(d) How does Matilda's sudden "cry of joy" shift the mood of the scene?
Ans: It instantly changes the mood from tense, gloomy, and dramatic to one of sudden excitement and hope.

30. "Bholi felt as if suddenly all the bells in the village temple were ringing and the trees in front of the school-house had blossomed into big red flowers."

(a) Why did Bholi feel as if the temple bells were ringing and the trees were dancing with joy?
Ans: Bholi felt this way because she was very happy and hopeful after meeting her teacher, who spoke kindly to her and encouraged her to learn.

(b) What had just happened that made Bholi feel so happy?
Ans: Bholi's teacher had treated her with kindness and assured her that she would learn to speak properly, which filled Bholi with hope and confidence.

(c) What does this line tell us about Bholi's feelings at that moment?
Ans: These lines show that Bholi felt joyful, hopeful, and encouraged because her teacher's kind words made her believe in herself.

(d) Find a word from the extract that means the same as 'developed'
Ans: Blossomed.

31. Bholi turned violently on the old woman, "Yes, Aunty, you are right. You all thought I was a dumb-driven cow. That's why you wanted to hand me over to this heartless creature. But now the dumb cow, the stammering fool, is speaking. Do you want to hear more?"

(a) Why does Bholi use the phrase "dumb-driven cow" to describe her past self?
Ans: Because society always treated her as a helpless creature who had no voice or opinion of her own.

(b)What does Bholi's "violent" turn on the old woman tell us about her emotional state?
Ans: It shows that she had reached her limit and was completely done tolerating societal insults and humiliation.

(c)Who is the "heartless creature" being referred to in this extract?
Ans: Bishamber Nath, the greedy groom.

(d) How does Bholi's ability to speak clearly now challenge the society's perception of her?
Ans: It proves that she is no longer a helpless fool, but an educated, self-reliant individual who can fight back.

Unsolved Questions for Practice.

A Letter to God
- G. L. Fuentes

Short Answer Questions :

1. The destruction of Lencho's crops left him with no source of income. What does his decision to write to God reveal about his way of dealing with problems?

2. Why did Lencho suspect the post office employees instead of doubting God?

3. What does the story suggest about the power of faith and human kindness?

Long Answer Question : (5 marks)

1. What qualities are reflected in the characters of the post office employees?

Extract-Based Questions :

Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions that follow:

1. "But in the hearts of all who lived in that solitary house in the middle of the valley, there was a single hope: help from God. Don't be upset, even though this seems like a total loss. Remember, no one dies of hunger."

(a) Who is the speaker of the above line?
(b) Which 'hope' is the speaker talking about?
(c) What 'loss' is being talked about in the above lines?
(d) What does the word 'solitary' mean?

2. "Lencho was an ox of a man, working like an animal in the fields, but still he knew how to write. The following Sunday, at daybreak, he began to write a letter which he himself would carry to town and place in the mail. It was nothing less than a letter to God."

(a) When did Lencho start to write the letter?
(b) Whom was the letter addressed to ?
(c) Where did he decide to carry the letter?
(d) What does 'an ox of a man' mean ?

****

Fire and Ice
- Robert Frost
-

Short Answer Questions :

1. Which human emotion does Robert Frost personally relate to, and why?

2. Which emotion, fire or ice, do you think is more dangerous in today's world? Give a reason for your answer.

3. Give one real-life example where hatred or coldness causes harm.

Long Answer Question :

1. How does Robert Frost use symbolism in the poem "Fire and Ice"?

Extract-Based Questions:

1. "Some say the world will end in fire,
Some say in ice."

(a) What are the two ways the world may end according to the extract?
(b) What does fire symbolise here?
(c) What does ice symbolise here?
(d) What is the main idea conveyed in these lines?

2. "From what I've tasted of desire
I hold with those who favour
fire."

(a) What does the word "tasted" suggest about the poet's experience?
(b) Why does the poet agree with those who favour fire?
(c) Mention one real-life situation that reflects the idea of "fire" in this extract.
(d) What life skill or value is highlighted through this extract?

****

HIS FIRST FLIGHT
- *Liam O'Flaherty*

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. How did the seagull's parents try to make him fly?
2. What did the young seagull do when he saw his mother carrying a piece of fish?
3. What happened when the young seagull finally jumped off the ledge?
4. How did the young seagull react when he landed on the sea?

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. "Fear and hunger are powerful motivators." Discuss this statement with reference to the young seagull's experience.
2. Towards the end, how was the young seagull different from what he was at the beginning of the lesson?

EXTRACT-BASED QUESTIONS

Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions that follow:

1. *"They were beckoning to him, calling shrilly. He dropped his legs to stand on the green sea. His legs sank into it."*
   a. Who were 'They'?
   b. Who was 'him'?
   c. Why were they beckoning to him?
   d. What happened when he dropped his legs into the sea?

2. *"Then his father flew over him screaming. He saw his two brothers and his sister flying around him, curveting and banking and soaring and diving."*
   a. Who was 'He'?
   b. What does 'curveting' mean?
   c. What does 'banking' mean in the context of the extract?
   d. What did 'He' forget?

****

The Black Aeroplane
- Frederick Forsyth

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. How did the seagull's parents try to make him fly?
2. What did the young seagull do when he saw his mother carrying a piece of fish?
3. What happened when the young seagull finally jumped off the ledge?
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   c. Why were they beckoning to him?
   d. What happened when he dropped his legs into the sea?
2. *"Then his father flew over him screaming. He saw his two brothers and his sister flying around him, curveting and banking and soaring and diving."*
   a. Who was 'He'?
   b. What does 'curveting' mean?
   c. What does 'banking' mean in the context of the extract?
   d. What did 'He' forget?

****

The Ball Poem
- *John Berryman*

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Why does the poet call money "external"?

2. How does the loss of the ball mark the boy's first step towards maturity?

3. According to 'The Ball Poem', what role does loss play in shaping human emotions?

4. What does the ball symbolize in 'The Ball Poem'?

5. If the poet had immediately bought the boy another ball, how would the message of 'The Ball Poem' change?

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Analyse how the poet uses the loss of a simple object to convey a universal truth about human life in 'The Ball Poem'.

EXTRACT-BASED QUESTIONS

Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions that follow:

1. "I saw it go
   Merrily bouncing, down the street, and then
   Merrily over—there it is in the water!"

(a) What does the word "it" refer to?
(b) Why is the word "merrily" repeated?
(c) What contrast is highlighted in these lines?
(d) What does the water symbolise in the poem?

2. "No use to say—'O there are other balls':
   An ultimate shaking grief fixes the boy"

(a) Why is it "no use" to console the boy?
(b) What does "ultimate shaking grief" suggest?
(c) How does the boy react to the loss?
(d) What stage of emotional development is shown?

3. “People will take
Balls, balls will be lost always, little boy.”

(a) Who are referred to as “people” here?
(b) What truth about life is conveyed in these lines?
(c) Why does the poet address the boy directly?
(d) What life lesson is suggested through this extract?

****

FROM THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK
- Anne Frank

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. Why was the entire class "quaking in its boots"?
2. How did Anne justify her talkative nature in her first essay?
3. How did Anne finally change Mr. Keesing’s attitude towards her?

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Anne Frank had loving family members and a number of friends, yet she said that she was completely alone in the world. Elaborate the reasons with reference to the narration in her diary.
2. What do you think of Anne Frank’s talent of writing essays as evident in the ones she wrote as punishment for being talkative?

EXTRACT-BASED QUESTIONS

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow:

1. *"Paper has more patience than people. I thought of this saying on one of those days when I was feeling a little depressed and was sitting at home with my chin in my hands, bored and listless, wondering whether to stay in or go out."*
    a. What has more patience than people, according to the writer?
    b. How was the writer feeling on that day?
    c. Where was the writer sitting?
    d. What was the writer wondering about doing?

2. *"I finished my poem, and it was beautiful! It was about a mother duck and a father swan with three baby ducklings who were bitten to death by the father because they quacked too much."*
    a. What did the writer finish writing?
    c. How many baby ducklings were there?
    c. Why did the father kill the ducklings?
    d. What humorous message was Anne trying to convey through the poem?

****

Amanda!
- Robin Kleen

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. What does the poem tell us about Amanda's state of mind?

2. Why does Amanda want to be a mermaid?

3. Why does Amanda enjoy imagining herself as an orphan roaming the streets?
4. Does Amanda really want to be an orphan, or does she simply long for the freedom she believes an orphan has? Give reasons to support your answer.

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. How does constant nagging affect Amanda in the poem 'Amanda!'?
2. Explain the significance of freedom in Amanda's imaginative world.

EXTRACT-BASED QUESTIONS

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow:

1. "Did you finish your homework, Amanda?
Did you tidy your room, Amanda?
I thought I told you to clean your shoes, Amanda!"

(a) Who do you think is speaking to Amanda?
(b) Which task is Amanda reminded to do?
(c) What does the repetition of "Amanda" indicate?
(d) Is Amanda paying attention to the speaker?

2. (I am an orphan, roaming the street.
I pattern soft dust with my hushed, bare
feet.
The silence is golden, the freedom is sweet.)

(a) Who is 'I' in this extract?
(b) What does Amanda imagine herself to be?
(c) What does the expression "the silence is golden" mean?
(d) What does the speaker do with her hushed, bare feet?

3. Don't eat that chocolate, Amanda!
Remember your acne, Amanda!
Will you please look at me when I'm speaking to you,
Amanda!

(a) Who do you think is speaking in this extract?
(b) What is Amanda being warned about?
(c) What does the speaker want Amanda to do while speaking to her?
(d) How does the speaker try to discipline Amanda in this extract?

****

TEA FROM ASSAM
-Arup Kumar Datta

Short Answer Questions

1. What does the Chinese legend reveal about the discovery of tea?
2. What did Rajvir find interesting about the tea plantation?
3. What makes the journey to Assam enjoyable for Rajvir?
4. How does the author show that Assam is an important place for tea production in the world? Mention two points from the chapter.

Long Answer Questions

1. "You've done your homework before coming, I see." In what ways does Rajvir's character demonstrate the importance of curiosity and self-learning during a journey?

Extract-Based Questions

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow:

1. Then the soft paddy fields gave way to tea bushes. It was a magnificent view. Against the backdrop of densely wooded hills a sea of tea bushes stretch as far as the eye could see. Dwarfing the tiny tea plants were tall sturdy shade-trees.

    a. What change did Rajvir notice outside the train?
    b. What plants were seen in large numbers?
    c. What trees were seen above the tea bushes?
    d. What does the phrase "as far as the eye could see" suggest?

2. "We have an Indian legend too. Bodhidharma, an ancient Buddhist ascetic, cut off his eyelids because he felt sleepy during meditations. Ten tea plants grew out of the eyelids. The leaves of these plants when put in hot water and drunk banished sleep."

    a. Who was Bodhidharma?
    b. Why did he cut off his eyelids?
    c. What property of tea is highlighted in this legend?
    d. What grew out of the discarded eyelids?

****

THE TREES
- Adrienne Rich

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. How does the poet describe the "empty" forest?
2. What is the poet doing while the trees are leaving the house?
3. What does the poet, Adrienne Rich, try to convey by saying 'My head is full of whispers"?

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. The poem, "The Trees", apparently is about nature but on a deeper level, Adrienne Rich expresses concern about constrictions in the society, of women in particular, and she champions liberation. Elaborate with reference to the poem.

EXTRACT-BASED QUESTIONS

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow:

1. 'I sit inside, doors open to the veranda
writing long letters
in which I scarcely mention the departure
of the forest from the house..."

    a. Where is the speaker sitting in the poem?
    b. What is the speaker doing while sitting inside the house?
    c. What important event does the speaker scarcely mention in the letters?
    d. From where is the forest departing according to the lines?

2. " All night the roots work
to disengage themselves from the cracks
in the veranda floor.
The leaves strain toward the glass
small twigs stiff with exertion..."

a. What part of the trees work to free themselves from the floor?
b. Where are the cracks located?
c. What are the leaves straining toward?
d. Which word suggests the physical effort of the twigs?

****

Madam Rides the Bus
- Vallikkannan

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. How did the conductor react when Valli boarded the bus alone?
2. What did Valli observe when the bus reached the town?
3. Why does Valli refuse to get down at the town bus stand?

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Describe Valli's preparation and planning for her bus journey.
2. How did the incident of the dead cow change Valli's mood and understanding?
3. "Valli strongly desires independence, yet her innocence remains visible throughout the journey." Discuss this statement with reference to the story.

EXTRACT-BASED QUESTIONS

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow:

1. "Over many days and months, Valli listened carefully to the conversations between her neighbours and people who regularly used the bus … ."

(a) Why did Valli listen carefully to these conversations?
(b) What information did she learn from these conversations?
(c) What does this behaviour reveal about Valli?
(d) Find a word from the extract which means 'talks between people'.

2. "Her first journey—what careful, painstaking, elaborate plans she had to make for it! She had thriftily saved whatever stray coins came her way, resisting every temptation to buy peppermints, toys, balloons and the like …"

(a) Why did Valli have to make elaborate plans for her journey?
(b) What temptations did Valli resist while saving money?
(c) What quality of Valli is revealed through her careful saving?
(d) What does the word 'thriftily' mean in the extract?

3. "'Oh,' said Valli, I was just agreeing with what you said about things happening without our knowledge."

(a) In what situation does Valli make this remark?
(b) What idea about life is being discussed in this conversation?
(c) Why is this statement ironic in the context of the story?
(d) Find a word from the extract that means 'awareness'.

****

The Tale of Custard the Dragon – Ogden Nash

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. What lesson can be learnt from Custard's character in dealing with peer pressure and criticism ?

2. Based on the poem 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon', what is the value of inner strength over outward bravado?

3. Custard humbly accepts that other animals are braver than him. What does it reveal about Custard's character?

Long Answer Question

1. In the context of "The Tale of Custard the Dragon", how does the poem challenge the idea of making fun of someone based on their personality, preferences, or choices in life?

2. Discuss whether it is justified to ridicule others for being different.

EXTRACT-BASED QUESTIONS

Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions that follow:

1. "Custard the dragon had big sharp teeth,And spikes on top of him and scales underneath, Mouth like a fireplace, chimney for a nose, And realio, trulio, daggers on his toes. "

a. Who was Custard?
b. What kind of teeth did the dragon have?
c. Which poetic device is used in "Mouth like a fireplace"?
d. What is the nose compared to?

2. "Belinda giggled till she shook the house,And Blink said Week!, which is giggling for a
mouse,Ink and Mustard rudely asked his age,When Custard cried for a nice safe cage."

a. Why did Belinda giggle?
b. Why were Ink and Mustard rude to the dragon?
c. Why did Ink and Mustard rudely ask his age?
d. What happened when Belinda giggled?

****

The Sermon at Benares

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. What were the four sights that changed Siddhartha's life?

2. Why do you think the Buddha did not directly tell Kisa Gotami that her son was dead and could not return to life?

3. If someone loses a loved one and refuses to accept the loss, how can the Buddha's teachings help that person?

Long Answer Question

1. Narrate the story of Kisa Gotami and explain the lesson she learned.

2. How does Kisa Gotami's experience in 'The Sermon at Benares' illustrate the idea that attachment is the root cause of suffering?

3. How do the experiences of Kisa Gotami in 'The Sermon at Benares' and Valli in 'Madam Rides the Bus' show that real learning comes through personal experience? Explain with examples from both texts.

4. Both Kisa Gotami in 'The Sermon at Benares' and the boy in 'The Ball Poem' experience the pain of loss. Compare their experiences and explain what they learn about accepting loss.

EXTRACT-BASED QUESTIONS

Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions that follow:

1. "He wandered for seven years and finally sat down under a peepal tree, where he vowed to stay until enlightenment came. Enlightenment came after seven days, … ."

(a) Who is 'he' referred to here?
(b) Under which tree did he meditate?
(c) What does "enlightenment" mean here?
(d) What does his vow show about his character?

2. "The Buddha answered, 'I want a handful of mustard-seed.' And when the girl in her joy promised to procure it, the Buddha added, 'The mustard-seed must be taken from a house where no one has lost a child, husband, parent or friend.'"

(a) Why did Kisa Gotami feel joyful on hearing Buddha's first request?
(b) What special condition did the Buddha add to his request?
(c) What was the real purpose behind the Buddha's condition?
(d) What does this incident reveal about the Buddha's method of teaching?

3. "Kisa Gotami became weary and hopeless, and sat down at the wayside watching the lights of the city, as they flickered up and were extinguished again. And she thought to herself, 'How selfish am I in my grief! Death is common to all…'"

(a) Why did Kisa Gotami become weary and hopeless?
(b) What do the 'flickering lights' symbolize?
(c) What realization came to Kisa Gotami as she sat by the roadside?
(d) How did this realization change her attitude towards her son's death?

****

For Anne Gregory
– William Butler Yeats

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Why does the poet think outer beauty influences love?

2. Why does Anne Gregory want to change her hair colour?

3. What idea about true love is presented in the poem?

Long Answer Question

1. Discuss how the poem 'For Anne Gregory' highlights the difference between outer beauty and inner beauty.

Extract-Based Questions :

Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions that follow:

1. "But I can get a hair-dye And set such colour there, Brown, or black, or carrot,"

a. Who is the speaker in these lines?
b. What does the speaker say she can do?
c. Why does she want to change her hair colour?
d. What idea about beauty is conveyed in this extract?

2. "I heard an old religious man
But yester night declare
That he had found a text to prove"

a. Who is the speaker referring to in these lines?
b. What did the old religious man claim to have found?
c. What does the word "text" refer to here?
d. What idea about love is conveyed through this statement?

****

The Proposal
- Anton Chekov

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Why does Lomov consider Natalya a suitable bride?

2. What leads to the argument between Lomov and Natalya about their dogs?

3. How does Chubukov react during the argument about the dogs?

Long Answer Question

1. Describe the character of Ivan Vassilevitch Lomov.

Extract-Based Questions :

Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions that follow:

1. "There's a large meadow between your birch woods and the Burnt Marsh."

(a) Who says this line?
(b) To whom is it said?
(c) What are they discussing?
(d) Find a word in the extract that means 'grassland'.

2. "She's willing! Well? Kiss and be damned to you!"

(a) Who says these words?
(b) Who is willing, and for what?
(c) Why does Chubukov say this in such an impatient tone?
(d) What does this moment reveal about the ending of the play?

****

Supplementary Reader

A Triumph of Surgery
- James Herriot

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Why was giving extra food to Tricki unwise?

2. What does Mr. Herriot's decision to hospitalise Tricki reveal about his understanding of the dog's condition?

3. What makes the episode of the eggs, wine, and brandy humorous in 'A Triumph of Surgery'?

4. Do you think Tricki loved Mrs. Pumphrey despite his stay at the surgery? Justify.

5. Why is Mrs. Pumphrey's remark, "This is a triumph of surgery," ironic?

6. What does Tricki's transformation at the end of the story show?

Extract-Based Questions :
Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions that follow:

1. "Now! I really mean this. If you don't cut his food right down and give him more exercise he is going to be really ill. You must harden your heart and keep him on a very strict diet."

(a) Who is the speaker and to whom was it said?
(b) Why did the speaker sound severe?
(c) Why was the advice given?
(d) What is the antonym of 'harden'?

2. "Tricki would eat nothing. Refused even his favourite dishes, and besides he had bouts of vomiting."

(a) What symptoms of illness did Tricki show?
(b) Why was this situation worrying for Mrs Pumphrey?
(c) What was the main cause of Tricki's illness?
(d) What decision did Mr Herriot take after seeing Tricki's condition?

3. "Poor old lad", I said. "You haven't a kick in you but I think I know a cure for you."

(a) Who is the speaker and to whom was it said?
(b) Why does the speaker say "poor old lad"?
(c) What cure did the speaker have in mind?
(d) What is the meaning of 'a kick' in the extract?

4. "He became an accepted member of the gang, an unlikely, silky little object among the shaggy crew, …."

(a) Who is referred to as 'he' in this extract?
(b) Who were the 'gang' mentioned here?
(c) Why is Tricki called an 'unlikely' member?
(d) How did being with the other dogs help Tricki?

****

THE THIEF'S STORY
- Ruskin Bond

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Hari Singh noticed that greedy people show fear and poor people show acceptance when they lose money. What does this show about him?

2. Anil knew Hari Singh had stolen the money because the notes were wet from the rain, but he did not say anything. Why did Anil stay silent?

3. Why was Hari Singh more thankful for the promise of education than for the money he stole every day?

EXTRACT-BASED QUESTIONS

Read the extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow:

1. "I awoke late next morning to find that Anil had already made the tea. He stretched out his hand towards me. There was a fifty-rupee note between his fingers."

a. Who woke up late in the morning?
b. What had Anil already done by that time?
c. What does Anil promise Hari from that day onward?
d. What does this extract suggest about Anil's attitude towards the thief?

2. “When I was on the road, I began to run. I had the notes at my waist, held by the string of my pyjamas.”

a. Who stole the money?
b. How did the thief carry the money?
c. At what time did the incident take place?
d. From whom did the thief steal the money?

****

A QUESTION OF TRUST
- Victor Canning

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. How did Horace Danby know all the details about the Shotover Grange?
2. “Society must be protected from men like you.” Comment on the irony of the sentence in the context of the story “A Question of Trust”.
3. Why did Horace Danby open the safe without wearing gloves?

EXTRACT-BASED QUESTIONS

Read the extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow:

1. "The police arrested him for the jewel robbery at Shotover Grange. His fingerprints, for he had opened the safe without gloves, were all over the room, and no one believed him when he said that the wife of the owner of the house had asked him to open the safe for her."

    a. Why were Horace's fingerprints all over the room?
    b. What did Horace tell the police about the broken safe?
    c. Why did "no one" believe his story?
    d. Who was the actual owner of the house?

2. "Horace is now the assistant librarian in the prison. He often thinks of the charming, clever young lady who was in the same profession as he was, and who tricked him. He gets very angry when anyone talks about ‘honour among thieves’."

    a. What is Horace’s current job?
    b. How does Horace now feel about the lady?
    c. Why does the mention of "honour among thieves" make him angry?
    d. What is the "profession" mentioned in the extract?

****

Footprints Without Feet
- H. G. Wells

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Why was Mrs Hall hysterical and fell down the stairs?
2. Why did Griffin enter a big London store?
3. Who was Griffin? Why did he become a homeless wanderer?
4. How did Griffin try to become visible?

Extract-Based Questions :

Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions that follow:

1. “The two boys started in surprise at the fresh muddy imprints of a pair of bare feet. What was a barefooted man doing on the steps of a house in the middle of London? And where was the man? ... They gazed, fascinated, until the muddy impressions grew fainter and fainter, and at last disappeared altogether.”

(a) Who are ‘they’ in the above extract?
(b) Why were the boys surprised?
(c) Whose footprints were these?
(d) Find a word in the extract that means ‘attracted’.

2. “Suddenly Mrs. Hall almost fell down the stairs in hysterics. ‘You! ... You, Mrs. Hall, are a fool! ... You don’t know who or what I am,’ he shouted. ‘Very well—I’ll show you.’ Instantly he threw off bandages, whiskers, spectacles, and even nose. It took him only a minute to do this. The people in the bar found themselves staring at a headless man!”

(a) Who is ‘he’ in this extract?
(b) Why did the people stare at a ‘headless man’?
(c) What do ‘hysterics’ mean?
(d) How did Griffin show his identity?

3. At that moment, Mr Jaffers arrived to arrest him. Although the constable bravely tried to carry out his duty, he found himself struggling with a man he could not see... This dramatic scene marks the first public revelation of Griffin's invisibility. It also shows how his extraordinary scientific achievement, instead of benefiting society, has become a source of fear, disorder, and isolation."

(a) Why was Mr. Jaffers' professional training and bravery ineffective against Griffin?
(b) How did Griffin's behavior during the fight shift his status from a "secretive guest" to a dangerous criminal?
(c) How did Griffin's brilliant "scientific achievement" ironically lead to his own "isolation"?
(d) In your own words, what is the main lesson this extract teaches us about scientific discoveries?

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The Necklace

- Guy de Maupassant

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Why did Mr. Loisel sacrifice his savings?
2. How did Matilda’s life change after losing the necklace?
3. What role does pride play in the story?
4. What message does the story give?

Extract-Based Questions :

Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions that follow:

1. “She danced with enthusiasm, intoxicated with pleasure.”

a. Where was Matilda?
b. Why was she happy?
c. What does this show about her?
d. Give the synonym of ‘ intoxicated’.

2. MmeLoisel now knew the horrible life of necessity.”

a. Why did the Loisels become poor?
b. How did her life change?
c. What does this suggest?
d. Give the antonym of ‘horrible’?

3. “In a shop of the Palais-Royal, they found a chaplet of diamonds which seemed to them exactly like the one they had lost.”

a. Who are ‘they’ in the above line?
b. How did the chaplet appear to them?
c. Why might they have been interested in buying the chaplet?
d. What was the value of the chaplet?

****

Bholi

- K. A. Abbas

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Why did Bholi’s parents send her to school?
2. How did education transform Bholi’s personality?
3. What message does the story convey?

Extract-Based Questions :

Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions that follow:

1. “Pitaji! Take back your money. I am not going to marry this man.”

a. Who speaks these words?

b. Why does the speaker refuse the marriage?

c. What do these lines show about the speaker’s personality?

d. How does this moment change the story?

2. “The teacher’s voice was so soft and soothing! In all her life she had never been called like that. It touched her heart.”

a. Who is she referred to in the above line?

b. Why did the teacher’s voice touch her heart?

c. How had she been treated by others before?

d. Find a word in the passage which means the same as ‘calming’.

****

GRAMMAR

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (MCQs)

TENSES

1. My brother _____ in the garden every morning.
A. works
B. work
C. worked
D. working

2. She _____ for the competitive exam since January.
A. studies
B. has studied
C. has been studying
D. studied

3. She _____ her homework when the power went out.
A. did
B. was doing
C. has done
D. does

4. We _____ a new project next month.
A. will have started
B. start
C. started
D. will start

5. The children _____ breakfast at 8 a.m. every day.
A. eat
B. eats
C. ate
D. eating

6. I _____ for two hours before you called me.
A. studied
B. have studied
C. had been studying
D. was studying

7. The dog _____ under the table right now.
A. sleeps
B. is sleeping
C. slept
D. has slept

8. I _____ three emails since I arrived at the office.
A. have written
B. wrote
C. write
D. am writing

9. He _____ to the gym three times this week.
A. goes
B. went
C. has gone
D. is going

10. By the time we arrived, the train _____.
A. had left
B. left
C. has left
D. is leaving

11. The students _____ for the test right now.
A. study
B. are studying
C. studied
D. have studied

12. While she _____ the road, a bus knocked her down.
A. has crossed
B. crosses
C. was crossing
D. is crossing

13. By next week, I _____ all my reports.
A. finishes
B. will finish
C. finish
D. will have finished

14. My father _____ for two hours when the guests arrived.
A. cooked
B. had been cooking
C. was cooking
D. has cooked

15. They _____ to Italy last summer.
A. travelled
B. have travelled
C. travel
D. are travelling

16. I _____ French for six months now.
A. have learned
B. have been learning
C. learned
D. am learning

17. Tomorrow, the manager _____ the meeting at 10 a.m.
A. held
B. holds
C. will hold
D. will have held

18. By the end of this year, she _____ at the company for eight years.
A. will have worked
B. will work
C. works
D. will have been working

19. The baby _____ all morning.
A. is crying
B. cries
C. has been crying
D. cried

20. He _____ his keys somewhere in the house last night.
A. has lost
B. lost
C. is losing
D. loses

21. The train _____ before we reached the station.
A. had left
B. has left
C. left
D. is leaving

22. We _____ on a new software update tomorrow at this time.
A. work
B. works
C. will work
D. will be working

23. By this time next week, I _____ my exams.
A. will finish
B. finish
C. will have finished
D. finishes

24. I _____ many valuable lessons from this experience.
A. have learned
B. have been learning
C. learned
D. am learning

25. Father _____ to the market yesterday.
A. go
B. goes
C. gone
D. went

26. The teacher _____ the test papers today.
A. has corrected
B. corrected
C. is correcting
D. corrects

27. I have been studying for three hours.
A. Present Perfect Continuous
B. Present Continuous
C. Present Perfect
D. Past Perfect

28. They will have completed the project by next Monday.
A. Future Continuous
B. Future Perfect
C. Simple Future
D. Present Perfect

29. She is reading a book in the library.
A. Present Perfect
B. Simple Past
C. Simple Future
D. Present Continuous

30. He played football yesterday evening.

A. Present Continuous
B. Simple Present
C. Simple Past
D. Future Continuous

MODALS

1. ____ I open the window? It's very hot in this room.

A. Can
B. Should
C. May
D. Must

2. You ____ always tell the truth; it is the right thing to do.

A. can
B. should
C. may
D. might

3. She ____ solve difficult problems quickly.

A. can
B. must
C. might
D. shall

4. How ____ you enter the room without knocking?

A. should
B. may
C. can
D. dare

5. I ____ help you with your homework after school if I finish my work early.

A. may
B. must
C. can
D. should

6. You ____ drink plenty of water during the summer.

A. might
B. should
C. must
D. can

7. They ____ visit us tomorrow, but I am not sure.

A. can
B. must
C. should
D. might

8. Students ____ not bring mobile phones into the exam hall.

A. may
B. must
C. might
D. could

9. You ____ not panic about the test results; everything is fine.

A. need
B. must
C. should
D. may

10. You ____ complete your project today; the deadline is strict.

A. may
B. could
C. might
D. have to

11. When she was young, she ____ play the violin beautifully.

A. can
B. could
C. shall
D. might

12. I ____ join you at the park later if it doesn't rain.

A. may
B. must
C. shall
D. will

13. You ____ arrive on time for the meeting; it is mandatory.

A. could
B. might
C. must
D. should

14. ____ we take a short break before continuing the class?

A. Shall
B. Must
C. Can
D. Might

15. When I was a child, my grandfather ____ always tell us interesting stories before bedtime.

A. must
B. can
C. would
D. might

16. You ____ switch off the lights before leaving the room.

A. can
B. must
C. might
D. could

17. ____ you please pass me the salt?

A. Must
B. Shall
C. Could
D. Need

18. We ____ reach the station on time if we leave now.

A. can
B. ought to
C. may
D. should

19. You ____ not park your car here; it is a 'No Parking' zone.

A. need
B. must
C. may
D. could

20. She ____ be in the library because her bag is there.

A. can
B. should
C. must
D. might

21. ____ I carry these books for you?

A. Shall
B. Must
C. Need
D. Might

22. You ____ apologise to your parents for your rude behaviour.

A. might
B. may
C. can
D. ought to

23. We ____ finish the project today, or we will miss the deadline.

A. can
B. may
C. have to
D. could

24. He ____ speak four languages fluently.

A. should
B. can
C. might
D. ought to

25. You ____ use a calculator during the examination.

A. must not
B. can
C. may
D. should

26. If you leave now, you ____ still catch the last bus.

A. should
B. need
C. must
D. may

27. You ____ disturb the patients in the hospital.

A. should not
B. may
C. can
D. ought to

28. We ____ invite our neighbours to the festival next week.

A. need
B. must
C. shall
D. ought to

29. Even after many attempts, he ____ lift the heavy box alone.

A. needn't
B. mustn't
C. shouldn't
D. couldn't

30. ____ you mind closing the door before you leave?

A. Can
B. Would
C. Must

D. Shall

DETERMINERS

1. We have ____ time left; we must hurry.

A. a little
B. little
C. few
D. several

2. She answered ____ question confidently.

A. every
B. much
C. little
D. several

3. There were hardly ____ students in the hall after the programme ended.

A. much
B. every
C. any
D. several

4. ____ road will take you to the station.

A. Each
B. Both
C. Either
D. Several

5. He has invested ____ money in the project.

A. many
B. much
C. few
D. several

6. ____ books on the table belong to me.

A. This
B. That
C. These
D. Each

7. ____ student was able to answer the question correctly.

A. No
B. Both
C. Many
D. Several

8. She bought ____ umbrella because it was raining.

A. a
B. an
C. the
D. some

9. We still have ____ time to complete the work.

A. few
B. several
C. little
D. a little

10. I have visited ____ countries in Europe.

A. much
B. many
C. little
D. a little

11. ____ dress do you like?

A. Which
B. Either
C. Both
D. Neither

12. She can speak ____ English and Hindi fluently.

A. either
B. neither
C. both
D. each

13. I want ____ apples from the basket.

A. a few
B. a little
C. much
D. each

14. ____ bag is lying on the floor?

A. Either
B. Some
C. Which
D. Whose

15. She gave me ____ useful advice.

A. few
B. a few
C. some
D. several

16. ____ students have not yet submitted their assignments.

A. Every
B. Much
C. Some
D. Each

17. She bought ____ notebook after losing the first one.

A. every
B. another
C. few
D. much

18. ____ student was absent on the day of the examination.

A. No
B. Every
C. Several
D. Much

19. There is ____ food for everyone at the party.

A. little
B. enough
C. few
D. every

20. She needs ____ practice before the competition.

A. several
B. each
C. either
D. more

21. ____ book on the table is mine.

A. Much
B. That
C. Those
D. These

22. We do not have ____ time left before the train leaves.

A. several
B. much
C. every
D. each

23. There is ____ sugar in this tea than in mine.

A. every
B. those
C. more
D. few

24. ____ teacher encouraged us to participate in the competition.

A. Our
B. Several
C. Much
D. Few

25. She bought ____ dress after returning the first one.

A. other
B. every
C. another
D. several

26. ____ answer do you think is correct?

A. Several
B. Which
C. Few
D. What

27. ____ hope he had was lost after the final defeat.

A. Little
B. Much
C. The little
D. Every

28. He stood on the ____ step of the staircase and looked down.

A. much
B. several
C. little
D. first

29. I invited ____ friends to my birthday party.

A. three
B. much
C. every
D. little

30. ____ information provided by the witness was useful.

A. Many
B. Few
C. All
D. Several

SUBJECT-VERB CONCORD

1. One of the players ___ selected for the state team.
A. are
B. is
C. were
D. have

2. Every student ___ responsible for his own work.
A. is
B. are
C. have
D. were

3. The sum of these figures ___ correct.
A. are
B. were
C. is
D. have

4. Some of the milk ___ spilled on the floor.
A. is
B. are
C. were
D. have

5. Either the teacher or the principal ___ giving the speech.
A. has
B. are
C. were
D. is

6. Neither the manager nor the employees ___ available today.
A. is
B. are
C. was
D. were

7. The Times of India ___ published in several cities.
A. are
B. were
C. have
D. is

8. Each boy and each girl ___ given a certificate.
A. are
B. were
C. was
D. have

9. More than one student ___ absent today.
A. have
B. is
C. are
D. were

10. A lot of visitors ___ waiting outside the museum.
A. are
B. is
C. was
D. has

11. The scissors ___ on the table.
A. have
B. was
C. is
D. are

12. Two and two ___ four.
A. make
B. makes
C. has made
D. making

13. He is one of the students who ___ always punctual.
A. is
B. was
C. are
D. has

14. All the mangoes in the basket ___ ripe.
A. are
B. is
C. were
D. have

15. Half of the cake ___ still left on the table.
A. are
B. is
C. have
D. were

16. The captain, along with his teammates, ___ ready for the match.
A. are
B. is
C. were
D. have

17. Neither of the proposals ___ acceptable.
A. are
B. have
C. were
D. is

18. The bouquet of roses ___ beautiful.
A. is
B. are
C. were
D. have

19. More than fifty percent of the work ___ completed.
A. are
B. have
C. is
D. were

20. Not only the students but also the principal ___ present at the meeting.
A. were
B. are
C. have
D. is

21. The introduction to these books ___ very informative.
A. are
B. is
C. have
D. were

22. The pair of shoes ___ under the bed.
A. are
B. were
C. is
D. have

23. The captain, as well as the players, ___ confident of winning.
A. is
B. are
C. were
D. have

24. The majority of the audience ___ clapping loudly.
A. is
B. are
C. has
D. was

25. The poet and philosopher ___ invited as the chief guest.
A. are
B. were
C. have
D. was

26. The poet and the philosopher ___ invited to the programme.
A. were
B. was
C. has
D. is

27. There ___ a pen and two pencils on the desk.
A. are
B. were
C. is
D. have

28. The Arabian Nights ___ a famous collection of stories.
A. are
B. is
C. have
D. were

29. Much of the information ___ useful.
A. are
B. were
C. have
D. is

30. The wages of the workers ___ very high.
A. is
B. has
C. are
D. was

REPORTED SPEECH

1. He said, "I have finished my homework."
A. He said that he had finished his homework.
B. He said that he finished his homework.
C. He said that he has finished his homework.
D. He said that he was finishing his homework.

2. She said, "I will call you tonight."
A. She said that she would call me that night.
B. She said that she will call me tonight.
C. She said that she would call you that night.
D. She said that she will call you tonight.

3. They said, "We are waiting for the bus."
A. They said that they were waiting for the bus.
B. They said that we were waiting for the bus.
C. They said that they are waiting for the bus.
D. They said that they had waited for the bus.

4. The teacher said, "The sun rises in the east."
A. The teacher said that the sun rises in the east.
B. The teacher said that the sun rose in the east.
C. The teacher said that the sun had risen in the east.
D. The teacher said that the sun is rising in the east.

5. My friend said to me, "Do you know the answer?"
A. My friend asked me if I knew the answer.
B. My friend asked me that I knew the answer.
C. My friend asked me whether do I know the answer.
D. My friend asked me do I know the answer.

6. She said to her child, "Why are you crying?"
A. She asked the child why he was crying.
B. She asked the child why was he crying.
C. She asked the child that why he was crying.
D. She asked the child why he is crying.

7. He said to me, "Open the window."
A. He told me to open the window.
B. He told me open the window.
C. He said that I open the window.
D. He requested me open the window.

8. The old woman said to me, "Please wait for me."
A. The old woman requested me to wait for her.
B. The old woman requested that I wait for her.
C. The old woman told me wait for her.
D. The old woman said me to wait for her.

9. She said, "What an amazing story!"
A. She exclaimed with admiration that it was an amazing story.
B. She said that it was an amazing story.
C. She exclaimed that it is an amazing story.
D. She said what an amazing story it was.

10. We said, "Let us start early."
A. We suggested that we should start early.
B. We told us start early.
C. We ordered that we start early.
D. We requested to start early.

11. Mohan said, "If I get time, I will help you."
A. Mohan said that if he got time, he would help me.
B. Mohan said if he gets time he will help me.
C. Mohan said that if he gets time, he would help me.
D. Mohan said that if he got time, he will help me.

12. She said, "I must finish this work today."
A. She said that she had to finish that work that day.
B. She said that she would finish that work that day.
C. She said that she has to finish that work today.
D. She said that she had finished that work.

13. Rita said, "These flowers are very beautiful."
A. Rita said that those flowers were very beautiful.
B. Rita said that these flowers were very beautiful.
C. Rita said that those flowers are very beautiful.
D. Rita said that these flowers are very beautiful.

14. He said, "I was cooking dinner."
A. He said that he had been cooking dinner.
B. He said that he was cooking dinner.
C. He said that he cooks dinner.
D. He said that he had cooked dinner.

15. The coach said to me, "Be careful."
A. The coach advised me to be careful.
B. The coach said to me to be careful.
C. The coach told that I be careful.
D. The coach said that I was careful.

16. He said that he played football.
A. He said, "I play football."
B. He said, "I had played football."
C. He said, "I have played football."
D. He said, "I am playing football."

17. She said that she would visit me the next day.
A. She said, "I will visit you tomorrow."
B. She said, "I would visit you tomorrow."
C. She said, "I visit you tomorrow."
D. She said, "I will visit me tomorrow."

18. They asked me if I was ready.
A. They said to me, "Are you ready?"
B. They said to me, "You are ready?"
C. They said to me, "Were you ready?"
D. They said to me, "Ready?"

19. He asked where I lived.
A. He said, "Where do you live?"
B. He said, "Where did you live?"
C. He said, "Where you live?"
D. He said, "Where are you live?"

20. She told me to sit down.
A. She said, "Sit down."
B. She said, "Sits down."
C. She said, "You sit down."
D. She said, "Sat down."

21. She requested him to help her.
A. She said to him, "Please help me."
B. She said, "Help me."
C. She said, "You help me."
D. She said, "Helps me."

22. He exclaimed with sorrow that he had failed.
A. He said, "Alas! I have failed."
B. He said, "I failed."
C. He said, "Oh! I fail."
D. He said, "I fail."

23. She wished that I might succeed.
A. She said, "May you succeed!"
B. She said, "You may succeed."
C. She said, "Succeed."
D. She said, "You succeed."

24. They suggested that we should start early.
A. They said, "Let us start early."
B. They said, "We start early."
C. They said, "Start early."
D. They said, "Started early."

25. She said that she was feeling ill that day.
A. She said, "I am feeling ill today."
B. She said, "I feel ill today."
C. She said, "I was feeling ill today."
D. She said, "I have felt ill today."

26. He said that he would be travelling the next week.
A. He said, "I will be travelling next week."
B. He said, "I am travelling next week."
C. He said, "I travel next week."
D. He said, "I would travel next week."

27. They said that they could not attend the meeting.

A. They said, “We cannot attend the meeting.”

B. They said, “We could not attend the meeting.”

C. They said, “We do not attend the meeting.”

D. They said, “We will not attend the meeting.”

28. He said that it was very cold that night.

A. He said, “It is very cold tonight.”

B. He said, “It was very cold tonight.”

C. He said, “It is very cold that night.”

D. He said, “It was very cold this night.”

29. She told me that she had lost her keys.

A. She said, “I have lost my keys.”

B. She said, “I had lost my keys.”

C. She said, “I lose my keys.”

D. She said, “I lost her keys.”

30. He ordered the boys to leave the room.

A. He said to the boys, “Leave the room.”

B. He said, “Leave the room.”

C. He said, “You leave the room.”

D. He said, “Left the room.”

****

COMPREHENSION PASSAGES UNSOLVED QUESTION

Technology has transformed nearly every aspect of modern life, including the way people learn. In the past, education relied heavily on textbooks, blackboards, and face-to-face instruction. Today, digital tools such as computers, tablets, and online platforms have become an essential part of the educational experience.

One of the most significant advantages of technology in education is access to information. Students can now explore vast amounts of knowledge through the internet. Online libraries, educational videos, and digital courses provide resources that were once difficult to obtain. This accessibility allows learners from different parts of the world to study topics that interest them.

Technology also supports personalized learning. Traditional classrooms often follow a single teaching pace that may not suit every student. However, digital learning platforms can adapt to individual learning speeds. Students who need more time can review materials repeatedly, while those who learn quickly can move ahead to more advanced topics.

Another benefit is improved communication and collaboration. Students and teachers can interact through emails, discussion forums, and video conferences. This allows learning to continue even when participants are not physically present in the same location. Group projects can also be conducted online, allowing students from different countries to work together.

Despite these benefits, technology also presents certain challenges. Excessive reliance on digital devices can lead to distractions and reduced attention spans. Some students may spend more time on social media or games than on educational tasks. Additionally, not all students have equal access to technology, creating a digital divide between those who have reliable internet and those who do not.

Therefore, while technology has great potential to enhance education, it must be used responsibly and thoughtfully. Teachers, parents, and students must work together to ensure that technology serves as a tool for learning rather than a source of distraction.

MCQs (UNSOLVED)

1. What is the passage mainly about?

A. The disadvantages of schools
B. The influence of technology on education
C. The history of computers
D. The importance of textbooks

2. In the past, education mainly relied on:

A. Smartphones
B. Virtual classrooms
C. Textbooks and blackboards
D. Social media

3. Technology helps students access:

A. Limited knowledge
B. Vast amounts of information
C. Only school notes
D. Only printed books

4. Personalized learning means:

A. Students learn at the same speed
B. Learning adapted to individual needs
C. Teachers stop teaching
D. Students study alone

5. Technology improves communication through:

A. Letters only
B. Emails and video conferences
C. Television only
D. Newspapers

6. One challenge mentioned is:

A. Lack of teachers
B. Too many books
C. Digital distractions
D. Lack of classrooms

7. The "digital divide" refers to:

A. Differences in internet access
B. Differences in languages
C. Differences in school uniforms
D. Differences in exam patterns

8. Online collaboration allows students to:

A. Avoid studying
B. Work with people from different countries
C. Skip classes
D. Reduce communication

9. According to the passage, technology should be used:

A. Completely avoided
B. Only by teachers
C. Responsibly
D. Only at home

10. The author's attitude toward technology is:

A. Completely negative
B. Completely positive
C. Balanced and cautious
D. Indifferent

ANALYTICAL PASSAGE UNSOLVED QUESTION

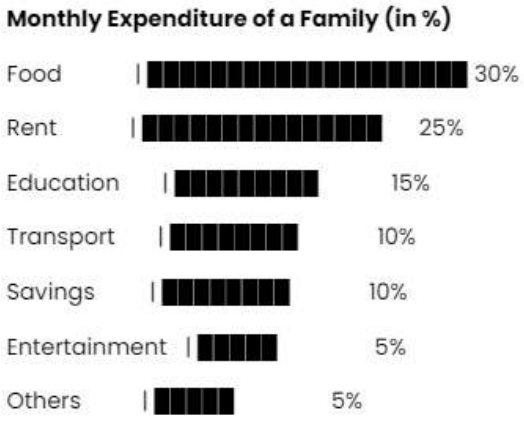
1. The graph represents the percentage distribution of a family's monthly expenditure across various categories. Food accounts for the largest share at 30%, indicating that basic needs consume a significant portion of income. Rent follows closely at 25%, reflecting the high cost of housing in urban areas.

Education takes up 15% of the budget, showing the family's priority towards academic development. Transport and savings each account for 10%, suggesting a balance between daily commuting needs and future financial security.

Entertainment and other expenses are limited to 5% each, indicating controlled discretionary spending. This pattern reflects a cautious financial approach, where essential needs are prioritised over luxury.

Overall, the graph highlights the importance of budgeting and financial

planning in maintaining a stable household economy, especially in the face of rising living costs.



1. What does the above graph represent?

2. Which category accounts for the highest expenditure?

3. What percentage of income is spent on rent and food combined?

4. How much is allocated to savings, and what does it indicate?

5. Why do you think entertainment expenses are low?

6. Identify two essential and two non-essential expenses from the graph.

7. What does the spending pattern suggest about the family's priorities?

8. If the total monthly income is ₹40,000, calculate the amount spent on education.

9. What economic challenge is hinted at in the passage?

10. What does the graph highlight overall?

LETTER WRITING UNSOLVED QUESTIONS

1. You are Rumi / Rahul, a resident of 105 Green Park, Guwahati. You have noticed that traffic rules are frequently ignored near Montfort School, causing traffic jams and posing a danger to students and pedestrians. Write a letter, in about 120–150 words, to the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic), Guwahati, complaining about the situation and suggesting measures to regulate traffic and ensure safety near the school.

2. You are Ridalin / Sanhiwot. The household water supply in your locality is muddy and unfit for drinking. Despite several complaints to the civic authorities, the problem still remains unresolved. Write a letter, in about 120–150 words, to the Editor of a local daily newspaper, expressing your concern about the issue, suggesting possible solutions, and drawing the attention of the concerned authorities to the matter.

3. You are Tia / Melvin, a student of Modern Public School, Delhi. You have observed that many students are becoming increasingly dependent on Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools for completing assignments and homework, which may affect their creativity and learning ability. Write a letter, in about 120–150 words, to the Editor of The Times of India, expressing your concern and suggesting ways to encourage independent thinking and the responsible use of technology among students.

ARTICLE WRITING UNSOLVED QUESTIONS

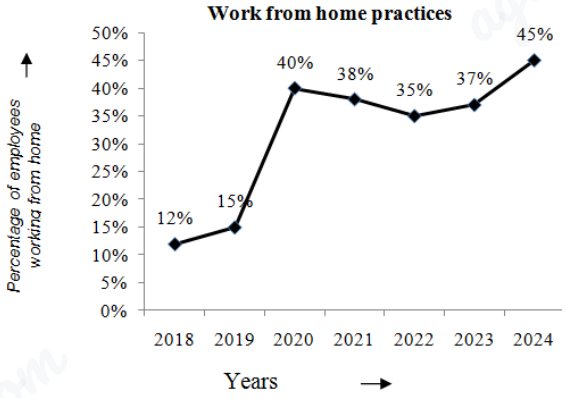
1. Metropolitan cities are becoming concrete jungles. There are no playgrounds left for children. Write an article, in about 120-150 words, on the "Role of Playground in a Child's Development". You are Dame / Ashira.

2. You are Kapil / Radha of Town School Tura. Every town you visit, you come across a deposit of garbage in its outskirts. It creates an unhealthy scene and is a serious threat to the environment. As a responsible citizen you feel that some concrete steps should be taken to check this problem. Write an article, in about 120-150 words, for your School Magazine on "Need for Garbage Management".

3. Trees are cut to widen roads or to develop new townships. It is fatal for the environment as a tree takes years to grow. You are in favour of growing more trees and banning the cutting of trees. Write an article, in about 120-150 words for your school magazine on the need to plant more trees and prevent deforestation. You are Annanya / Anil.

ANALYTICAL PARAGRAPH UNSOLVED QUESTIONS

1. The line graph below shows the growth of work-from-home practices in various sectors from 2018 to 2024. Study the line graph carefully and write an analytical paragraph in about 100–120 words highlighting the key trends, comparisons, and overall changes shown in the data.



2. The table below provides data on the number of speakers (in millions) and the percentage of the total population for six major languages spoken in India, based on a recent census report. Write an **analytical paragraph** in about 1200–150 words summarizing the information.

Speakers of Six Major Indian Languages

Language	Number of speakers (in millions)	Percentage of Total Population
Hindi	528	43.6%
Bengali	97	8.0%
Marathi	83	6.8%
Telugu	81	6.7%
Tamil	69	5.7%
Gujarati	55	4.5%