

CBSE EXAMINATION PAPER-2023

ENGLISH

(Solved)

Time allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 73

General Instructions :

Read the following instructions carefully and follow them :

- i. This question paper contains **28 questions**. All questions are **compulsory**.
- ii. This question paper is divided into **4 sections**.
- iii. **Section A** – questions number **1 to 3** are very short answer Each question carries **2 marks**.
- iv. **Section B** – questions number **4 to 8** are short answer Each question carries **3 marks**.
- v. **Section C** – questions number **9 to 12** are case based questions
- vi. **Section D** – questions number **13 to 16** are long answer Each question carries **5 marks**.
- vii. There is no overall choice given in the question paper. However, an internal choice has been provided in few questions.
- viii. Use of calculator is NOT allowed.

Section A

Question 1.

Scientists contribute to make the world a better place. Griffin is an antithesis to this statement. Justify. (Footprints Without Feet)

[2 Marks]

Answer: In the story "Footprints Without Feet" by H.G. Wells, Griffin is portrayed as a scientist who does not make the world a better place. Instead of using his scientific knowledge for the benefit of society, Griffin uses his invention of invisibility for selfish and harmful purposes. His actions cause fear and chaos among people, as he commits crimes and escapes punishment. Unlike scientists who aim to improve life and help others, Griffin chooses to use his power irresponsibly and immorally. Therefore, he stands as an antithesis to the idea that scientists always contribute positively to the world.

Question 2.

Why did Bholi's teacher feel like an artist admiring her masterpiece ? (Bholi).

[2 Marks]

Answer: Bholi's teacher felt like an artist admiring her masterpiece because she had witnessed Bholi's remarkable transformation. When Bholi first came to school, she was shy, awkward, and lacked confidence. However, under the guidance and encouragement of her teacher, Bholi grew into a confident and self-assured girl. The teacher saw her efforts and patience bearing fruit as Bholi answered questions confidently and stood up for herself. This change gave the teacher immense satisfaction, much like an artist feels proud and pleased when their artwork is completed beautifully.

Question 3.

What is the twist at the end of the story 'The Necklace' ? (The Necklace)

[2 Marks]

Answer: The twist at the end of the story 'The Necklace' reveals that the necklace Madame Loisel borrowed and later lost was not made of real diamonds but was a fake. Madame Loisel and her husband spend ten years working hard and sacrificing their comforts to repay the huge debt they incur to replace the necklace, only to find out much later that the original necklace was worthless. This twist highlights the themes of vanity, pride, and the brutal irony of life.

Section B

Question 4.

'What mood of the poet is reflected in the poem 'Dust of Snow' initially ? What images are used by the poet to bring about the effect ? Comment.

[3 Marks]

Answer: Initially, the mood of the poet in the poem 'Dust of Snow' is gloomy and sad. The poet feels downhearted due to some unpleasant experience or thoughts. However, the mood changes when a crow shakes down a dust of snow from a hemlock tree onto him.

The images used by the poet to describe this change include the 'dust of snow' falling unexpectedly, which symbolizes a small but beautiful moment in nature. The poet also mentions the hemlock tree and the crow, which create vivid natural imagery. These images of a small act of nature help in shifting the poet's mood from gloomy to happy and thankful. The poem portrays how even minor incidents in nature can have a positive and uplifting effect on a person's feelings.

Question 5.

How far would you agree that one's positivity can bring in a spark of brightness even in adverse circumstances?

[3 Marks]

Answer: Positivity has the power to bring a spark of brightness even in the most adverse circumstances. When faced with challenges or difficulties, maintaining an optimistic attitude helps boost morale and provides the strength to endure hardships. For example, in the story, Bholi's teacher encouraged and motivated her despite social barriers, which helped Bholi overcome her difficulties. This shows how optimism acts like light in darkness, making hardships easier to bear. Positive thinking fosters hope, courage, and resilience, allowing individuals to find opportunities in difficulties rather than despair. Therefore, I strongly agree that one's positivity can bring brightness and inspire growth even amid tough times.

Question 6.

'What makes Custard, the dragon look fearsome? Explain.

[3 Marks]

Answer: Custard, the dragon, looks fearsome because he has big sharp teeth that can scare anyone. Additionally, he has spikes on his back which make him appear dangerous and tough. The dragon also has scales underneath, adding to his intimidating appearance. These physical features make Custard look like a strong and fearsome creature, even though he is actually a coward. His looks contrast with his timid nature, making the story interesting and humorous.

Question 7.

Explain, why the speaker mentions God in the poem "For Anne Gregory".

[3 Marks]

Answer: In the poem "For Anne Gregory" by William Butler Yeats, the speaker mentions God to emphasize the connection between divine qualities and human virtues. The speaker highlights qualities such as Mercy, Pity, Peace, and Love, which are considered divine. By stating "Where Mercy, Love & Pity dwell, There God is dwelling too," the poem suggests that God resides in the presence of these virtues. This means that embodying these qualities

reflects God's presence within human beings. Thus, mentioning God serves to show that true beauty and goodness come from inner virtues and spiritual qualities rather than external appearance.

Question 8.

What message might the Buddha's story hold for those who are in positions of power and privilege ?

[3 Marks]

Answer: The Buddha's story carries a powerful message for those in positions of power and privilege. It teaches that true greatness comes from humility, compassion, and recognizing the equality of all human beings, regardless of caste, birth, or social status. The story of the sensitive girl condemned by birth to a lower caste, who gains dignity and self-worth through the humanity shown by a follower of the Buddha, highlights the importance of respecting everyone. It warns the powerful against arrogance and urges them to serve others with kindness, justice, and fairness. The message also reflects a protest against social hierarchies and promotes the idea that no one is superior by birth or status. Thus, those in privileged positions should use their power responsibly, treat every individual with respect, and work to reduce social inequalities, as exemplified by the Buddha's teachings on human equality and compassion.

Section C

Question 9.

Read the text given below :

(1) Held every year on 21 May, UNESCO leads the celebration of World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development highlighting not only the richness of the world's cultures, but also the essential role of intercultural dialogue for achieving peace and sustainable development.

(2) A recent international emergency has proved the intrinsic value of the cultural and creative sector at generating social cohesion, educational resource or personal well-being in times of crisis. It has also underscored the sector's potential to generate economic growth, something which is too often underestimated.

(3) With the adoption in September 2015 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the United Nations, and the resolution on Culture and Sustainable Development adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2015, the message of the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development is more important than ever. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can best be achieved by drawing upon the

creative potential of the world's diverse cultures and engaging in continuous dialogue to ensure that all members of society benefit from sustainable development.

(4) Bridging the gap between cultures is urgent and necessary for peace, stability and development. Cultural diversity is a driving force of development, not only with respect to economic growth, but also as a means of leading a more fulfilling intellectual, emotional, moral and spiritual life. This is captured in the culture conventions, which provide a solid basis for the promotion of cultural diversity. Cultural diversity is thus an asset that is indispensable for poverty reduction and the achievement of sustainable development.

(5) At the same time, acceptance and recognition of cultural diversity in particular through innovative use of media and Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) are conducive to dialogue among civilizations and cultures, respect and mutual understanding.

(6) In 2001, UNESCO adopted the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity. Next, in December 2002, the UN General Assembly, in its resolution 57/249, declared May 21 to be the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, and in 2015, the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted the resolution on Culture and Sustainable Development, affirming culture's contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable development, acknowledging further the natural and cultural diversity of the world, and recognizing that cultures and civilizations can contribute to, and are crucial enablers of, sustainable development.

(7) The day provides us with an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the values of cultural diversity and to achieve the goals of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions adopted on 20 October, 2005.

Answer the following questions based on the above passage :

(1)

Based on the reading and understanding of the above passage, list 2 points to describe the purpose of UNESCO leading the celebration of World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development. (a) _____

(b) _____

[1 Marks]

Answer: (a) To highlight the richness of the world's diverse cultures and promote intercultural dialogue. (b) To encourage peace and sustainable development by fostering mutual understanding and respect among different cultures.

Key Points: Highlighting the richness of diverse cultures–Promoting intercultural dialogue–Encouraging peace and sustainable development–Fostering mutual understanding and respect among cultures

(2)

Select the option that corresponds to the meaning of the following sentence from para (2).

The recent international emergency has proved the intrinsic value of the cultural and creative sector at generating social cohesion, educational resource or personal well-being in times of

crisis.

(A) the real worth of cultural sector at generating social cohesion during pandemics

(B) the real worth of creative sector at undermining the social cohesion during an international emergency

(C) questioning the real worth of creative sector at generating education resource during an international emergency

(D) highlighting the real worth of cultural and creative sector at generating social cohesion and educational resource during an international emergency

[1 Marks]

Answer: The correct option is (D) highlighting the real worth of cultural and creative sector at generating social cohesion and educational resource during an international emergency.

Key Points: The sentence emphasizes the important value ('intrinsic value') of the cultural and creative sectors. - These sectors help generate social cohesion, educational resources, and personal well-being during crises. - The context is about a recent international emergency, underscoring their positive role. - Options B and C convey wrong or negative meanings, while A is partially correct but less comprehensive than D. - Hence, option D fully captures the meaning of the sentence.

(3)

Based on your reading of the passage, examine in about 40 words how Sustainable Development Goals can be achieved.

[2 Marks]

Answer: Sustainable Development Goals can be achieved by embracing cultural diversity and engaging in intercultural dialogue. Utilizing the creative potential of diverse cultures promotes peace, social cohesion, and equitable growth, ensuring all members benefit from sustainable development.

Key Points: Sustainable Development Goals-importance of cultural diversity- intercultural dialogue-creative potential of cultures-social cohesion-equitable growth-all members benefit

(4)

In sets a-e below, identify two sets of synonyms.

- a. richness and poverty
- b. intellectual and moral
- c. reduction and promotion
- d. essential and intrinsic
- e. urgent and crucial

Options :

- (A) a and c
- (B) b and e
- (C) d and e
- (D) b and d

[1 Marks]

Answer: The two sets of synonyms are 'essential and intrinsic' and 'urgent and crucial'. Therefore, the correct option is (C) d and e.

Key Points: Synonyms have similar meanings; essential and intrinsic both mean fundamental or necessary; urgent and crucial both mean very important or requiring immediate attention; other pairs like richness and poverty are antonyms; intellectual and moral are related but not synonyms; reduction and promotion have opposite meanings.

(5)

What is the tone of the writer in the given line from paragraph (4) ? Rationalise your response in about 40 words : “Cultural diversity is an asset.”

[2 Marks]

Answer: The tone of the writer is positive and appreciative. The writer considers cultural diversity as an important and valuable resource that contributes not only to economic growth but also to enriching intellectual, emotional, moral, and spiritual aspects of life. It is seen as essential for sustainable development.

Key Points: Tone is positive and appreciative – Cultural diversity is valuable and important – It enriches various aspects of life like intellectual and moral – Contributes to economic growth and development – Essential for peace and sustainability

(6)

The phrase ‘bridging the gap’ in paragraph (4) refers to :

- (A) widening the differences
- (B) connecting two disparate ideas
- (C) supporting the bridging
- (D) filling in the space between two connected things

[1 Marks]

Answer: The phrase ‘bridging the gap’ in paragraph (4) refers to connecting different cultures to promote peace, stability, and development.

Key Points: bridging the gap means connecting cultures-cultural differences need to be connected for peace and development-cultural diversity is important for social and economic growth

(7)

Complete the sentence appropriately :

The Second Committee of UN General Assembly in 2015 adopted_

-----.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The Second Committee of UN General Assembly in 2015 adopted the resolution on Culture and Sustainable Development.

Key Points: The Second Committee adopted a resolution in 2015- The resolution focused on Culture and Sustainable Development- It emphasized culture's contribution to sustainable development- It recognized the importance of cultural diversity and civilizations in development

(8)

Complete the following sentence :

-----is urgent and necessary for peace, stability and development.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Bridging the gap between cultures is urgent and necessary for peace, stability and development.

Key Points: Bridging the gap between cultures - Importance for peace - Importance for stability - Importance for development

Question 10. On the day of the inauguration, I was overwhelmed with a sense of history. In the first decade of the 20th century a few years after the bitter Anglo-Boer war and before my own birth, the white skinned people of South Africa patched up their differences and

created a system of racial domination against the dark-skinned people of their own land. The structure they created formed the basis of one of the harshest, most inhumane societies the world has ever known. Now, in the last decade of the twentieth century, and my own eighth decade as a man, that system has been overturned forever and replaced by one that recognised the rights and freedoms of all peoples, regardless of the colour of their skin.

(1) Explain the feelings of the narrator when he said ; "I was overwhelmed with a sense of history."

[1 Marks]

Answer: The narrator felt deeply moved and aware of the great historical significance of the day. He was thinking about how long the system of racial domination had lasted and how it was finally being replaced by a society that recognized equality and freedom for all people, regardless of skin color.

Key Points: The narrator felt moved and aware—the significance of overturning racial oppression—the end of white supremacy and beginning of equality and freedom for all people

(2)

The system of racial domination has been replaced by a system that :

- (A) confirms the education of the Blacks.
- (B) recognises the rights and freedoms of all people.
- (C) recollects the bitter experiences.
- (D) focuses on the personality development.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The system of racial domination has been replaced by a system that recognises the rights and freedoms of all people, regardless of the colour of their skin.

Key Points: racial domination system replaced – new system recognises rights and freedoms of all peoples – no discrimination based on skin colour

(3)

Comment on the kind of society apartheid had created ?

[2 Marks]

Answer: Apartheid created a society based on racial domination and white supremacy. It was one of the harshest and most inhumane societies in the world, where the rights and freedoms of dark-skinned people were severely restricted and they were discriminated against by the white-skinned minority.

Key Points: Apartheid was a system of racial domination-Apartheid created white supremacy society-It was harsh and inhumane-Dark-skinned people faced discrimination and were deprived of their rights and freedoms

(4)

Which phrase would correctly substitute 'patched up' in the given sentence from the extract :

"..the white skinned people of South Africa patched up their differences.."

[1 Marks]

Answer: The phrase that could correctly substitute 'patched up' is 'resolved' or 'settled'.

Key Points: The phrase 'patched up' means to resolve or settle differences-The context refers to the white-skinned people settling their differences-A suitable substitution is 'resolved' or 'settled'.

Question 11.

He stalks in his vivid stripes

The few steps of his cage, On pads of velvet quiet,

In his quiet rage. He should be lurking in shadow, Sliding through long grass Near the water pole Where plump deer pass.

He should be snarling around houses At the jungle's edge,

Baring his white fangs, his claws,

(1) State any one point of contrast between the tiger in the zoo and in its natural habitat.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The tiger in the zoo moves only a few steps inside its cage, whereas the tiger in its natural habitat moves freely in the jungle, stalking through long grass near water holes.

Key Points: Tiger in zoo moves within a limited space-Tiger in natural habitat moves freely in jungle-Tiger in zoo is confined and restless-Tiger in jungle is active and in its natural environment

(2)

When the speaker suggests that the tiger should be "Snarling around houses at the jungle's edge" ? What does he insinuate about the tiger's natural behaviour and habitat?

[1 Marks]

Answer: The speaker implies that the tiger's natural behaviour is wild and fierce. It should be free in its natural habitat, which is the jungle, roaming near the edge where it can be dangerous by snarling around houses. This shows that the tiger is a powerful and threatening animal in the wild, exhibiting natural predatory instincts.

Key Points: Tiger's natural habitat is the jungle-Tiger is wild and fierce-Tiger shows predatory behaviour by snarling-Tiger usually stays near the jungle's edge-Tiger is dangerous and powerful in the wild

(3)

The poet's skillful use of imagery effectively depicts the confinement and frustration of the tiger. Elaborate in about 40 words.

[2 Marks]

Answer: The poet uses vivid imagery like "vivid stripes" and "pads of velvet" to show the tiger's natural beauty and grace. Yet, phrases such as "the few steps of his cage" and

"quiet rage" emphasize the tiger's confinement and frustration, contrasting its wild nature.

Key Points: Imagery of vivid stripes and velvet pads shows tiger's natural elegance - 'few steps of his cage' highlights limited space - 'quiet rage' expresses frustration and confinement - contrasts with tiger's natural wild behavior

(4)

Which phrase would correctly substitute 'quiet rage' in the given sentence from the extract ? The few steps of his cage on pads of velvet quiet in his 'quiet rage.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The phrase 'silent anger' would correctly substitute 'quiet rage' in the given sentence.

Key Points: quiet rage means silent anger- 'quiet rage' refers to the tiger's anger that is not loud but intense- synonym for 'quiet rage' is 'silent anger'- conveys the idea of hidden or restrained fury

Question 12.

No use to say 'O there are other balls

An ultimate shaking grief fixes the boy As he stands rigid, trembling, staring down

All his young days into the harbour where his ball went.

I would not intrude on him,

A dime, another ball, is worthless.

Now He senses first responsibility In a world of possessions. People will take Balls, balls will be lost always, little boy

And no one buys a ball back. Money is external

He is learning.....

(1)

(1) Which of the following best describes the speaker's attitude towards the boy's reaction to losing his ball?

- (A) indifferent as the ball is inexpensive
- (B) sympathetic, understanding the depth of the boy's loss
- (C) mocking, finding the boy's reaction exaggerated and unnecessary.
- (D) panicked, sharing the boy's distress over the lost ball.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The speaker's attitude towards the boy's reaction is sympathetic, understanding the depth of the boy's loss. The speaker recognizes the boy's deep grief and the sense of responsibility he is starting to feel in the world of possessions. The loss of the ball is not just about the object but about a more profound learning experience for the boy.

Key Points: Speaker is sympathetic to the boy's emotions - The boy experiences deep grief ('shaking grief') - The loss signifies a learning about responsibility and possessions - The speaker values the boy's feelings over the monetary value of the ball

(2)

Explain the phrase 'all his young days into the harbour' with reference to the extract.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The phrase 'all his young days into the harbour' means that the boy is not just looking at the ball that he lost in the harbour but is also remembering all the happy times and memories he had while playing with it. His ball represents his childhood and the innocent moments of his youth. Losing the ball makes him realize the value of his experiences and that some things, like memories and childhood, cannot be replaced or bought.

Key Points: The boy is remembering his past happy days-the ball symbolizes his childhood-The phrase shows his emotional attachment to the ball-Losing the ball is like losing a part of his childhood-Memories associated with the ball are priceless-It shows the boy's realization of loss and responsibility

(3)

Comment on the use of metaphor in the above extract.

[1 Marks]

Answer: In the extract, the ball is used as a metaphor for something valuable and irreplaceable in the boy's life, symbolizing his childhood memories and innocence. The 'loss of the ball' represents a loss that cannot be easily compensated by money or replacing the object. This metaphor highlights the boy's realization of responsibility and the understanding that some losses are more significant than their monetary value.

Key Points: Ball as metaphor for childhood memories and innocence- Loss of the ball symbolizes emotional loss, not just physical- Money cannot replace what is truly lost- Boy's realization of responsibility and the permanence of some losses

(4)

Briefly state in about 40 words the boy's journey from 'shaking grief' to 'he is learning' in the above extract.

[2 Marks]

Answer: The boy feels deep sorrow and stands still, realizing losing his ball is more than just losing a toy. He understands that possessions can be lost and cannot always be replaced with money. From this, he learns responsibility and the true value of things.

Key Points: Boy's deep grief over losing the ball-Boy stands rigid and trembling showing sadness-Loses not only a ball but childhood innocence-Realizes money cannot replace what is lost-Understands the permanence of loss and responsibility-He is learning from this life experience

Section D

Question 13.

There are daily reports in the newspaper of fatal accidents due to reckless driving and road rage. Write a letter to the Commissioner of Traffic Police in about 120 words

suggesting the need to take stricter action against the offenders. Recommend the use of social media to launch awareness campaigns about the implications of irresponsible driving. You are Shantanu / Savita, living at B-108 Krishi Apartments.

[5 Marks]

Answer:

To,
The Commissioner of Traffic Police,
City Traffic Department,
[City Name].

Subject: Request for Stricter Action against Reckless Driving and Use of Social Media for Awareness.

Respected Sir/Madam,

I am Shantanu residing at B-108 Krishi Apartments. I write to express my concern over the rising number of fatal accidents caused by reckless driving and road rage, as frequently reported in newspapers. Such incidents endanger the lives of citizens and disturb public peace.

I earnestly request that strict punishments and fines be imposed on offenders to deter such dangerous behavior. Moreover, social media platforms should be effectively utilized to launch awareness campaigns highlighting the consequences of irresponsible driving. These campaigns can educate and encourage responsible behavior among drivers, especially the youth.

Your cooperation in making our roads safer would be highly appreciated.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,
Shantanu
B-108 Krishi Apartments

Question 14.

A leading communication company 'Savera' is sponsoring a half marathon run in your city to raise funds for 'Koshish' an orphanage. You are Roshini/Roshan, school captain of Adarsh Vidyalaya. You are leading a batch of hundred students in the half marathon to be held in your city.

Write a letter to the editor of a national daily emphasizing the participation of school children in such programmes as part of voluntary community service. Highlight the benefits of participation in such activities.

[5 Marks]

Answer:

Adarsh Vidyalaya

City Name

Date

To

The Editor

National Daily

City

Subject: Importance of School Children Participating in Voluntary Community Service Activities

Respected Sir/Madam,

I am Roshan, the school captain of Adarsh Vidyalaya. I am honored to lead a group of hundred students participating in the half marathon organized by 'Savera' to raise funds for the orphanage 'Koshish' in our city. I would like to emphasize the significance of school children engaging in such voluntary community service activities.

Participation in events like this not only builds physical stamina and promotes a healthy lifestyle but also fosters a strong sense of social responsibility among young minds. It helps us understand the challenges faced by underprivileged sections of society, encourages empathy, and motivates us to contribute to their welfare actively. Taking part in community service enhances leadership qualities, teamwork, and discipline, which are essential life skills.

Moreover, when children come together for a noble cause, it inspires awareness in the community and amplifies the impact of charitable efforts. Such experiences prepare us to become responsible citizens who cherish humanity and work towards social betterment.

Therefore, I strongly advocate encouraging schoolchildren to participate in similar initiatives as it benefits individuals and society at large.

Thank you for considering my views.

Yours sincerely,

Roshan

School Captain

Adarsh Vidyalaya

Question 15.

The visual given shows the life cycle of a butterfly. Study the information carefully and then summarise it in the form of an analytical paragraph. Make comparisons and draw conclusions wherever applicable.

[5 Marks]

Answer: The life cycle of a butterfly consists of four distinct stages: egg, larva (caterpillar), pupa (chrysalis), and adult butterfly. Initially, the butterfly lays eggs on leaves, which hatch into caterpillars. The caterpillar stage involves intense feeding and growth, preparing it for metamorphosis. During the pupal stage, the caterpillar forms a chrysalis where it transforms into a butterfly. This transformation highlights the remarkable process of complete metamorphosis. Comparing these stages, the caterpillar stage is mainly for growth, while the adult butterfly stage focuses on reproduction and dispersal. This cycle not only ensures the continuation of the species but also plays a vital ecological role in pollination. Overall, the butterfly's life cycle is an excellent example of nature's complexity and adaptability.

Question 16.

Study the table given below which shows the data on the hobbies of students during summer vacations. Write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words analyzing what hobbies do boys and girls choose in their summer vacations :

[5 Marks]

Answer:

Hobbies are activities that students enjoy during their free time, especially in summer vacations. Based on the data, boys and girls show different preferences in their hobbies. Boys mostly prefer outdoor or physically engaging activities such as playing sports or video games. On the other hand, girls tend to prefer creative hobbies like drawing, painting, or music. Some girls also enjoy indoor hobbies such as clay-modeling and stamp collecting. Both boys and girls participate in hobbies that develop their skills and keep them engaged, but their choices reflect varied interests and personal preferences. These hobbies help students refresh their minds and improve their talents during the vacation period.
