

# CBSE EXAMINATION PAPER-2024

## ENGLISH

(Solved)

Time allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 74

### General Instructions :

Read the following instructions carefully and follow them :

- i. This question paper contains **29 questions**. All questions are **compulsory**.
- ii. This question paper is divided into **10 sections**.
- iii. **Section A** – questions number **1 to 2** are unseen passage
- iv. **Section B** – questions number **3 to 8** are case based questions
- v. **Section C** – questions number **9 to 17** are short answer
- vi. **Section D** – questions number **18 to 18** are formal invitation
- vii. **Section E** – questions number **19 to 20** are notice
- viii. **Section F** – questions number **21 to 22** are letter
- ix. **Section G** – questions number **23 to 23** are job application
- x. **Section H** – questions number **24 to 24** are article
- xi. **Section I** – questions number **25 to 25** are report
- xii. **Section J** – questions number **26 to 29** are long answer
- xiii. There is no overall choice given in the question paper. However, an internal choice has been provided in few questions.
- xiv. Use of calculator is NOT allowed.

## Section A

## Question 1.

Read the following passage carefully :

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

(1)

What does this article aim to do?

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

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** The article aims to explain the benefits of owning a dog.

**Key Points:** The article talks about how dogs provide unconditional love, emotional support, increase physical activity, and help in social connections for young adults-It focuses on reasons why dogs make great companions-It does not provide advice on how to get a dog or detailed care instructions-It aims to highlight the benefits of having a dog

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

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** Dogs serve as great emotional support animals for people with anxiety and depression. Their presence alone provides calm and comfort, as they can sense their owner's emotions and offer heartfelt support to those dealing with mental health challenges.

**Key Points:** Dogs provide emotional support-Dogs help with anxiety and depression-Dog's presence offers calm and comfort-Dogs can sense owner's emotions

(3)

A dog can encourage its owner to lead a healthier life by.....

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

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** A dog can encourage its owner to lead a healthier life by requiring regular exercise, which motivates the owner to engage in physical activities like walking, running, or playing. This not only keeps the dog healthy but also improves the owner's mood and fitness levels.

**Key Points:** Dogs need regular exercise–Owners get motivated to be physically active–Dog walking or playing increases physical activity–Improves owner's mood and energy levels–Encourages healthier lifestyle habits

(4)

What is the tone of the article?

- (A) critical but supportive
- (B) indifferent and bored
- (C) positive and informative
- (D) humorous and casual

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** The tone of the article is positive and informative because it presents many benefits of having dogs as companions for young adults in a supportive and encouraging manner.

**Key Points:** The article highlights the benefits of owning dogs–Describes dogs as loyal and loving companions–The passage encourages young adults by explaining how dogs help with emotional support and social connection–The tone is encouraging and filled with positive information about dogs

(5)

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

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

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** The significance of owning a dog for a young adult striving for acceptance in society is that a dog is a source of unconditional love. Dogs provide loyalty and affection without judgment, which offers emotional support and comfort to young adults.

**Key Points:** Dogs provide unconditional love–Dogs offer emotional support–Dogs help young adults feel accepted and loved

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

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** Dogs help people start conversations easily because they attract attention and interest. When walking or playing with dogs in public places, they naturally bring people together, making it easier to make new friends and social connections.

**Key Points:** Dogs attract attention and interest–Dogs help start conversations–Dogs bring people together–Dogs promote social connections

- (7) What does the underlined part in the sentence 'consider finding a furry friend to take on the world with you' refer to?

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** The underlined part 'a furry friend' refers to a dog as a companion who provides emotional support, friendship, and helps to alleviate stress and loneliness.

**Key Points:** The underlined phrase 'a furry friend' refers to a dog–Dogs provide companionship and emotional support–Dogs help young adults face stress and challenges together

(8)

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

- (A) walking the dog daily
- (B) feeding it regularly
- (C) engaging the services of a dog trainer
- (D) Both (A) and (B)

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** Both walking the dog daily and feeding it regularly help young adults build their sense of responsibility and self-discipline.

**Key Points:** Feeding the dog regularly teaches responsibility – Walking the dog daily involves commitment and routine – Both activities require self-discipline to care properly for the dog

(9)

Select the option that is similar in meaning to the phrase 'take on the world'.

- (A) travel the world
- (B) accept a responsibility
- (C) to be pessimistic
- (D) to be pessimistic have a global outlook

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** The phrase 'take on the world' means to accept a responsibility or face challenges bravely. So, the correct option is (B) accept a responsibility.

**Key Points:** Meaning of 'take on the world' – to face challenges or responsibilities bravely – Correct option is (B) accept a responsibility

## Question 2.

Read the following passage carefully :

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

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

(3) It is clear that stress has a significant impact on the happiness of today's youth. The findings suggest that young people need better resources to manage their mental health and well-being. This may include access to counselling services, mindfulness activities and support groups to help them cope with challenging circumstances. It is also important to provide financial support so as to reduce some of the economic pressures.

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

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

**(1) What are the two findings that the survey mentioned in paragraph 1 reveals?**

**Answer in about 40 words.**

[2 Marks]

**Answer:** The survey reveals that in India, 87% of youth feel highly happy with their lives, with financial security and family support being the main sources of their happiness. However, 65% experience stress due to academic pressure, and 25% feel lonely.

**Key Points:** Majority of Indian youth (87%) rate their happiness as high or very high—Financial security is a key source of happiness (66%)—Family support is crucial (89%) – High stress from academics (65%) – Loneliness affects 25% of youth

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

[2 Marks]

**Answer:** The statement means that giving financial support helps young people manage the stress caused by money problems. This support can reduce economic burdens like tuition fees or living expenses, allowing youth to focus better on studies and their overall happiness.

**Key Points:** Financial support reduces economic stress—Helps youth focus on studies and well-being—Reduces pressure related to money problems—Improves mental health and happiness

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

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** Stress significantly impacts the happiness of today's youth, as shown in the survey where 65% of Indian youth reported feeling anxious about their academic performance or workload. Additionally, 25% of them felt lonely. These high levels of stress and loneliness can reduce overall happiness and well-being among young people. The passage also emphasizes the need for better mental health support to help youth manage this stress and improve their happiness.

**Key Points:** Mention percentage of youth feeling anxious (65%)—Mention percentage feeling lonely (25%)—Explain how stress negatively affects happiness—Refer to need for mental health support

(4)

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

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

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** Option (C) Books and literature does not play a substantial role in the well-being of Indian youth, as per the given passage.

**Key Points:** The passage highlights family support and economic stability as main factors influencing Indian youth's happiness—Social connection or technology is not mentioned directly but can be inferred as relevant through family support—Books and literature are not mentioned as a factor in the passage

(5)

State whether True or False: with reference to the given passage :

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

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** False. It is necessary to provide financial support to the youth as the passage states that financial security is a major source of happiness for many youths, and economic pressures contribute to stress. Academic performance is not the only factor influencing stress levels.

**Key Points:** Financial support is important for youth happiness—Financial security is a primary source of happiness (66%)—Stress is caused by both academic workload and financial pressures—Providing financial support helps reduce economic pressures—Statement is false as per the passage

(6)

What are the top choices which are of maximum value to today's youth? Choose from:

I. Collectivism

II. Social media

III. Individualistic society

IV. Family ties

Options :

(A) I and II

(B) II and III

(C) I and IV

(D) II and IV

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** The top choices of maximum value to today's youth are I. Collectivism and IV. Family ties, so the correct option is (C) I and IV.

**Key Points:** The passage highlights the importance of family support (family ties) as the major contributor to happiness among youth. Collectivism is implied through the emphasis on family and community support rather than individualistic or social media factors. Social media (II) and individualistic society (III) are not mentioned as top sources of happiness.

(7) The mental health of today's youth can be managed by resources like \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

[1 Marks]

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

**Key Points:** Counselling services - Mindfulness activities - Support groups - Mental health resources

(8)

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

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

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** The sources of happiness to today's youth in descending order are: family support, financial status, purposefulness, and stress.

**Key Points:** Family support is the highest source of happiness (89%) – Financial security is the second (66%) – Purpose in life contributes next (50%) – Stress negatively affects happiness and is not a source of happiness

## Section B

### Question 3.

Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool.

Find even the ivory needle hard to pull.

The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band

sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.

(Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)

(1)

State whether the following statement is True or False with reference to the extract:

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

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** True. Aunt Jennifer feels nervous and burdened because of the 'massive weight of Uncle's wedding band' which 'sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.' This symbolizes the constraints and oppression she experiences in her marriage.

**Key Points:** The phrase 'massive weight of Uncle's wedding band' symbolizes burden-The wedding band 'sits heavily' showing oppression-Aunt Jennifer's difficulty in pulling the needle suggests nervousness and trauma-These show the constraints of her marriage affecting her.

(2)

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

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

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** The theme best represented in the given extract is (C) Victim of male domination.

**Key Points:** The phrase 'massive weight of Uncle's wedding band' symbolizes oppression and control; Aunt Jennifer struggles physically and symbolically under the burden of male dominance; the imagery shows her lack of freedom and power; this reflects the theme of female victimization in a patriarchal society.

(3) The use of the words "massive weight" creates a powerful image of \_\_\_\_.

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** The words "massive weight" create a powerful image of the heavy burden and oppression that Aunt Jennifer feels because of her marriage. It suggests that the wedding band is not just a piece of jewelry but symbolizes the control and restrictions imposed on her by her husband and married life.

**Key Points:** massive weight symbolizes oppression-massive weight suggests burden of marriage-massive weight shows Aunt Jennifer's lack of freedom

(4)

Complete the following sentence appropriately:

The fingers fluttering through her wool symbolize \_\_\_\_\_.

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** The fingers fluttering through her wool symbolize Aunt Jennifer's delicate, anxious, and oppressed state of mind.

**Key Points:** fingers fluttering indicate nervousness or anxiety - they represent Aunt Jennifer's delicate condition - symbolize the oppression she feels - inability to pull the needle easily shows struggle and burden

(5)

Based on the rhyme scheme in lines 3 and 4, which word would rhyme with 'band' and 'hand'?

(A) stand

(B) wind

(C) bent

(D) tent

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** The correct word that would rhyme with 'band' and 'hand' based on the rhyme scheme is (A) stand.

**Key Points:** Rhyming scheme- Words 'band' and 'hand' rhyme with 'stand'- Other options 'wind', 'bent', and 'tent' do not rhyme with 'band' and 'hand'

(6)

The heavy wedding ring is a source of:

- (A) joy.
- (B) freedom.
- (C) dignity.
- (D) burden.

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** The heavy wedding ring is a source of burden for Aunt Jennifer as it symbolizes the oppressive and controlling nature of her marriage.

**Key Points:** The wedding ring is described as having a 'massive weight' - symbolizes oppression-The ring 'sits heavily' indicating a sense of burden-It does not bring joy or freedom but restricts Aunt Jennifer

#### Question 4.

"If I am able, are you?" Sadao asked.

"No," Hana said, "But if you can do it alone..."

Sadao hesitated again. "The strange thing is," he said, "that if the man were whole I could turn him over to the police without difficulty. I care nothing for him. He is my enemy. All Americans are my enemy. And he is only a common fellow. You see how foolish his face is. But since he is wounded..."

(The Enemy)

(1)

Complete the sentence appropriately.

The dilemma faced by the couple was \_\_\_\_\_.

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** The dilemma faced by the couple was whether to help the wounded enemy soldier and risk being seen as traitors, or to abandon him and let him die.

**Key Points:** Couple faced moral and patriotic conflict–Could save wounded enemy or hand him to police–Help meant risking their reputation and safety–Dr. Sadao's duty as a doctor vs his feelings about the enemy

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

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** Dr. Sadao's statement reflects his loyalty and patriotism towards his country. Despite his personal feelings, he is dedicated to his duty as a doctor and also feels conflicted due to the war. His patriotism is shown by his view of Americans as enemies, but he is also compassionate and professional because he wants to save the wounded soldier.

**Key Points:** Shows patriotism – Feels conflict between duty as a doctor and loyalty to country – Compassionate nature despite considering Americans as enemies

(3)

What does Hana ask Dr. Sadao to do alone?

- (A) Treat the wounded soldier
- (B) Give him shelter in the outhouse
- (C) Throw him back into the sea
- (D) Hand him over to the authorities

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** Hana asks Dr. Sadao to treat the wounded soldier alone.

**Key Points:** Hana says 'But if you can do it alone' – asking Sadao to act alone– Hana's concern about the wounded soldier–Treating the wounded soldier despite him being an enemy–Sadao's hesitation because the soldier is an enemy

(4) Explain the expression: "if the man were whole".

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** The expression "if the man were whole" means that if the enemy soldier was not injured and was perfectly healthy, Dr. Sadao would have no hesitation in handing him over to the police because he considers him his enemy. However, since the man is wounded, Sadao feels a moral dilemma and is compelled to help him, despite the man being an enemy.

**Key Points:** The phrase 'if the man were whole' means 'if he were not injured'—Dr. Sadao considers the man an enemy and would have handed him to the police if healthy—The man's wounded condition causes Sadao to hesitate and feel compassion—The expression highlights Sadao's internal conflict between duty and humanity

Question 5.

Derry: I'd not come to steal anything.

Mr. Lamb: No, no. The young lads steal... scrump the apples. You're not so young.

Derry: Just... wanted to come in. Into the garden.

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

Derry: You don't know who I am.

Mr. Lamb: A boy. Thirteen or so.

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

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

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

(On the Face Of It)

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

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** Mr. Lamb feels that Derry has not come to steal because Derry is not like the young lads who usually steal apples. Mr. Lamb says that the young boys scrump the

apples, but Derry is older and has come into the garden just because he wanted to, not to steal anything.

**Key Points:** Mr. Lamb notices Derry is older than the usual boys who steal-Mr. Lamb mentions young lads steal apples-Derry says he wanted only to come into the garden and not to steal-Derry's behavior and words show he is honest

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

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** Mr. Lamb tries to put Derry at ease by telling him "Nothing to be afraid of. Just a garden. Just me," which shows he wants Derry to feel safe. He also reassures Derry by saying "No, no. The young lads steal... scrump the apples. You're not so young," indicating that he does not suspect Derry of wrongdoing. These statements by Mr. Lamb show his gentle and welcoming attitude towards Derry.

**Key Points:** Mr. Lamb says 'Nothing to be afraid of. Just a garden. Just me.'-Mr. Lamb tells Derry he is not suspected of stealing apples-'No, no. The young lads steal... You're not so young'-Mr. Lamb's calm and friendly tone to reassure Derry

(3) People are afraid of Derry because \_\_\_\_\_.

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** People are afraid of Derry because of his physical appearance. They do not understand him and are frightened by how he looks.

**Key Points:** Derry's physical appearance makes others scared-People do not know him well-Their fear is based on looks rather than his true nature

(4)

Choose the correct statement:

(A) Derry entered the garden as he was fascinated by the bees.

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

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** The correct statement is (D) Derry entered as he wanted to see the garden.

**Key Points:** Derry says he just wanted to come into the garden -Mr. Lamb mentions the gate is always open but Derry climbed over the wall-Derry did not mention fascination with bees-Derry and Mr. Lamb are not well acquainted

### Question 6.

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

(Lost Spring)

(1)

State whether the following statement is True or False with reference to the extract.

The children and their parents have left Dhaka to live in Seemapuri.

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** True. The children and their parents have left Dhaka to live in Seemapuri as they were forced to leave their home due to storms that destroyed their fields and homes.

**Key Points:** The families, including Saheb's, came from Bangladesh in 1971-They left due to natural calamities like storms-Their home was in Dhaka before moving to Seemapuri

(2)

Rag-picking has acquired the proportions of a fine art means:

- (A) artistic bend of mind is required.
- (B) it has proportionately displaced art.
- (C) it has become a highly skilful activity.
- (D) it has discovered pieces of art.

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** It means that rag-picking has become a highly skillful activity over the years.

**Key Points:** rag-picking is a skill-developed activity - it is compared to a fine art - requires expertise and practice - it is important for survival in Seemapuri

(3) What does the phrase 'for a child it is even more' reveal about the children's dreams?

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** The phrase 'for a child it is even more' reveals that garbage is not just a means of survival for children but also a source of hope and wonder. While adults see garbage as a way to earn a livelihood, children see it as something magical where they may find treasures like coins or notes, which fuels their dreams and hopes for a better future.

**Key Points:** Garbage as hope for children- Children see magic and wonder in garbage- Adults see garbage as survival- Children find coins or notes in garbage- Phrase shows children's dreams and hopes

(4) Why does the author say 'survival in Seemapuri means rag-picking'?

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** The author says that 'survival in Seemapuri means rag-picking' because the people living there depend on collecting and selling garbage to earn their livelihood. Rag-picking has become their main means of survival and is considered like a fine art to them. Garbage is very valuable to them as it provides food and shelter, even if the shelter is not proper.

**Key Points:** People in Seemapuri rely on rag-picking for livelihood - Rag-picking is their main source of survival - Garbage is valuable to them like gold - Provides daily food and a place to live - Rag-picking skill has been developed over the years

(5)

Which of the following headlines suggests the central idea of the extract?

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

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** The correct headline that suggests the central idea of the extract is (B) Rag-picking – Different Perspectives. The passage focuses on how rag-picking is a means of survival in Seemapuri and how the people, especially children, view garbage as valuable.

**Key Points:** The passage highlights rag-picking as survival in Seemapuri - Rag-picking described as a fine art over the years - Garbage is considered as gold and daily bread - Children and adults have different perspectives towards rag-picking

(6)

Complete the sentence appropriately:

Children become partners in survival suggests that \_\_\_\_\_.

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** Children become partners in survival suggests that from a very young age, children actively take part in the struggle for survival by helping their families in rag-picking, which is their way of earning a living.

**Key Points: Children help in family survival-They contribute by rag-picking-Active participation from childhood-Struggle for livelihood**

**Question 7.**

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

(1) Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract ? (A) The beautiful things in nature (B) Things that cause unhappiness (C) The immortality of human beings (D) The early morning fragrance of flowers

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** The theme best represented in the given extract is (A) The beautiful things in nature. The poet talks about wreathing a 'flowery band' every day despite sadness and difficulties, indicating the importance of beauty in nature as a source of hope and joy.

**Key Points: Theme of beauty in nature- Idea of wreathing a flowery band symbolizes appreciation of natural beauty- Contrasts beauty with despondence and gloomy days- Beauty as a source of hope and connection to earth**

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

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** True. The extract mentions "all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways made for our searching," suggesting that the paths we often follow are not in accordance with our noble nature.

**Key Points:** The phrase 'all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways' indicates the negative paths-we follow-The lines mention 'of noble natures' and imply a contrast with these paths-The statement is therefore True as per the extract

(3) Complete the following sentence appropriately : We wreath for ourselves a flowery band every morrow because \_\_\_\_\_.

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** We wreath for ourselves a flowery band every morrow because, in spite of all the sadness, difficulties, and dark moments in life, something beautiful always brings us hope and keeps us connected to life.

**Key Points:** Wreathing a flowery band means creating beauty daily-In spite of sadness and gloom-Beauty helps to overcome sorrow and despair-It binds us to the earth and life-It gives hope and joy

(4) The lack of punctuation at the end of line 3 in the extract is to: (A) create a sense of continuity and flow that connects it with the fourth line. (B) encourage the reader to understand grammar. (C) forewarn the reader of gloomy days ahead. (D) keep us connected to this earth.

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** The lack of punctuation at the end of line 3 is to create a sense of continuity and flow that connects it with the fourth line. This technique helps maintain the rhythm and smooth progression of ideas in the poem.

**Key Points:** No punctuation at line end creates continuity-Lines 3 and 4 connected-Fluency and smooth progression maintained-Rhythm of poem preserved

(5) The use of the word dearth creates a powerful image of \_\_\_\_\_.

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** The word 'dearth' creates a powerful image of a severe scarcity or lack, emphasizing the absence of noble qualities in people and the bleakness of the times.

**Key Points:** meaning of 'dearth'-emphasizes scarcity or lack-absence of noble natures-creates an image of gloom and despondence

(6) Based on the rhyme scheme in lines 4 and 5, which of the following word will rhyme with days and 'ways' ? A) craze (B) pays (C) haste (D) waste

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** The words 'days' and 'ways' rhyme with words that have the same ending sound '-ays'. Among the given options, both 'craze' and 'pays' rhyme with 'days' and 'ways'. But of the choices, 'pays' (option B) is the most suitable rhyme word.

**Key Points:** lines 4 and 5 end with 'days' and 'ways'-rhyme scheme depends on matching end sounds-'days' and 'ways' have '-ays' sound-'pays' also has the '-ays' sound-so option B is the correct rhyme

**Question 8.** This settlement was adopted unanimously by the commission. Gandhi explained that the amount of the refund was less important than the fact that the landlords had been obliged to surrender part of the money and, with it, part of their prestige. Therefore, as far as the peasants were concerned, the planters had behaved as lords above the law. Now the peasant saw that he had rights and defenders. He learned courage.

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

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** Gandhi agreed to the settlement of a 25 per cent refund because he believed that the actual amount refunded was less important than the impact it had on the landlords' authority. The landlords were forced to give up part of the money and their prestige, which showed the peasants that the planters were not above the law. This helped the peasants realize that they had rights and defenders, thereby encouraging them to gain courage and confidence to fight for their rights.

**Key Points:** Gandhi prioritized the principle over amount – landlords surrendered money and prestige – planters no longer seen as above the law – peasants recognized their rights and gained courage

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

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** The landlords were forced to give back part of the money to the peasants, which led to a loss of their prestige. This showed that the landlords were no longer above the law. The peasants realized that they had rights and defenders, which gave them courage.

**Key Points:** Landlords surrendered part of refund-Loss of prestige for landlords-Planters no longer above the law-Peasants gained courage and realized their rights

(3) Complete the sentence with one word : The commission agreed by common consent, or in other words, they agreed to the settlement \_\_\_\_\_.

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** unanimously

**Key Points:** The commission reached a decision with full agreement-Gandhi emphasized the significance of the agreement itself rather than the refund amount-The word 'unanimously' fits the meaning of agreement by common consent

(4)

Based on the content provided in the extract, select the most likely option about the behaviour of the landlords.

A) The landlords were sorry for their behaviour.

(B) The landlords were obstinate and refused Gandhi's Suggestion

(C) The landlords had to refund the money.

(D) The landlords and the planters became partners in the Indigo plantation.

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** The landlords had to refund the money.

**Key Points:** Landlords were obliged to surrender part of the money-Landlords lost some prestige due to refund-Landlords behaved as 'lords above the law'-Refund was less important than the act of surrender

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

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** The phrase 'lords above the law' suggests that the landlords acted as if they were more powerful than the law and ignored the rights of the peasants.

**Key Points:** Landlords acted with unchecked power-Landlords ignored laws and peasants' rights-Landlords behaved like rulers without accountability

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

[1 Marks]

**Answer:** From the Champaran incident, the peasants realized that they had rights and defenders who would stand up for them. They understood that the landlords, who previously behaved like lords above the law, could be challenged and forced to surrender part of their unjustly taken money. As a result, the peasants learnt courage and began to see themselves as being protected under the law.

**Key Points:** Peasants realized they had rights-Peasants realized they had defenders (like Gandhi)-Landlords were no longer above the law-Peasants gained courage and confidence

**Question 9.** What was the 'thunderclap' the narrator received as M. Hamel began the lesson? (The Last Lesson)

[2 Marks]

**Answer:** The 'thunderclap' the narrator received as M. Hamel began the lesson refers to the sudden realization and emotional shock he felt when M. Hamel announced that it was the last French lesson they would have. This announcement came with the news that the Prussian authorities had ordered that only German would be taught in schools of Alsace and Lorraine from then on. The narrator also vividly remembers the atmosphere in the classroom as the church-clock struck twelve and the sound of Prussian trumpets was heard outside, emphasizing the gravity and finality of the moment. The lesson was not just a class but a symbol of cultural loss for the people of Alsace and Lorraine. M. Hamel's serious and mournful tone left a deep impact on the narrator, making this moment unforgettable.

**Question 10.** Explain the sentence "an army of barefoot boys who appear like the morning birds and disappear at noon." (Lost Spring)

[2 Marks]

**Answer:** The sentence "an army of barefoot boys who appear like the morning birds and disappear at noon" from the story Lost Spring refers to the group of poor children who wander the streets in the morning just like birds that come out at dawn. These boys are barefoot, symbolizing their poverty and vulnerability. They are visible in the morning, searching for work or scavenge, but by noon they vanish from the streets as if they disappear, reflecting their fragile existence. Their presence is temporary and uncertain, highlighting the harsh realities of their exploited childhood and the grinding poverty they endure.

**Question 11.** The lesson 'The Rattrap' is both entertaining and philosophical. Do you agree with the statement? Give reasons. (The Rattrap)

[2 Marks]

**Answer:** Yes, I agree that 'The Rattrap' is both entertaining and philosophical. The story is engaging through its narrative of a poor peddler who sells rattraps, which keeps the reader interested. At the same time, it offers deep philosophical ideas about life and human nature. The peddler's metaphor comparing the world to a big rattrap suggests that the world often traps people with material desires and selfish motives, much like a rattrap lures rats. The story also shows the peddler's inner transformation after he experiences kindness and realizes that people have goodness in them. This dual nature of the story makes it entertaining with its plot and characters, while also making us reflect on life, freedom, and human nature, which is truly philosophical.

**Question 12.** Bring out the contrast between Jansie and Sophie in the story 'Going Places'. (Going Places)

[2 Marks]

**Answer:** In the story 'Going Places', Jansie and Sophie, though friends and classmates, have contrasting personalities and outlooks on life. Sophie is ambitious and dreams of a better life beyond their small town and destined factory work, as she aspires to become a famous writer and escape the routine life. On the other hand, Jansie is more practical and resigned to their current situation, believing they are both destined for the biscuit factory and discouraging Sophie's dreams. Sophie is curious, secretive, and enjoys imagining possibilities, shown when she is quiet about her meeting with Danny Casey, while Jansie tends to be skeptical and straightforward. While Sophie looks forward to changes and new experiences, Jansie prefers to stay grounded and is doubtful about dreams that seem unrealistic. This contrast highlights the differing attitudes of youth facing similar circumstances but reacting differently to their futures.

**Question 13.** How was there a great deal of national integration in the make-up department? (Poets and Pancakes)

[2 Marks]

**Answer:** The make-up department in the studio was a perfect example of national integration long before it became a theme on radio and television programs. The department was composed of men from diverse backgrounds who worked together harmoniously to transform actors using makeup and locally made potions. Despite differences, a strict hierarchy and teamwork prevailed, with the chief make-up man handling the main actors and others assigned roles based on their position. This unity and cooperation among men from different regions and communities demonstrated a strong spirit of national integration within the department.

**Question 14.** Did Umberto Eco like to be identified as a novelist? Give reasons in support of your answer. (The Interview)

[2 Marks]

**Answer:** Umberto Eco did not like to be identified primarily as a novelist. He considered himself first and foremost a university professor and an academic scholar, who writes novels only as a secondary pursuit. In an interview, Eco expressed that he writes novels "on Sundays," implying that fiction writing was a part-time, less serious activity compared to his academic work. He was well known for his scholarly contributions to semiotics, literary interpretation, and medieval aesthetics before gaining fame as a novelist. Being known mainly as a novelist bothered him because it overshadowed his identity and achievements as a professor and researcher.

**Question 15.** Do you think the prediction made by the state astrologer "was indisputably disproved"? Give reasons in support of your answer. (The Tiger King)

[2 Marks]

**Answer:** No, the prediction made by the state astrologer was not indisputably disproved. Although the king managed to kill ninety-nine tigers, the astrologer had warned him to beware of the hundredth tiger. The prophecy implied that even after defeating many

tigers, danger still loomed. The king was shown the dead tigers, and the astrologer pointed out that the real threat was the hundredth tiger, which symbolized an unforeseen danger. Thus, the prediction held true because the king was still vulnerable to the last tiger, reminding us that fate or destiny cannot be completely controlled or disproved.

**Question 16.** "Then I lost my spirit." What are the incidents that led Zitkala-Sa to feel this way? (Memories of Childhood)

[2 Marks]

**Answer:** In the autobiographical story 'Memories of Childhood,' Zitkala-Sa expresses the moment she 'lost her spirit' after being taken away from her mother and brought to a boarding school. She experienced harsh treatment and felt extreme humiliation. People stared at her strangely, and she was physically tossed about like a puppet, making her feel powerless. Her long hair, which was a symbol of her identity, was cut short, which made her feel like a coward. In her pain and loneliness, she yearned for her mother's comfort, but no one came to soothe her. These incidents, including separation from family, loss of cultural identity, and harsh treatment at the school, led Zitkala-Sa to lose her spirit and feel dejected and lost.

**Question 17.** Tishani Doshi considered the programme 'Students on Ice' a success. Do you agree with her? Why/Why not? (Journey to the End of the Earth)

[2 Marks]

**Answer:** Yes, I agree with Tishani Doshi that the programme 'Students on Ice' was a success. The programme, led by Geoff Green, aims to take high school students to the polar regions, providing them with an inspiring and educational experience. This is important because young students are more receptive to learning and motivated to act on environmental issues they observe firsthand. The journey to such remote and fragile places like Antarctica deeply affects the students, helping them understand the planet's past, present, and future. By engaging the future generation of policy-makers through real-world exposure, the programme fosters awareness and responsibility towards environmental conservation and global change, making it a meaningful and successful initiative.

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## Section D

**Question 18.**

You are the Secretary of the Civil Medical Doctors Association, Sheesh Nagar. On the occasion of World Health Day, you are arranging a workshop on Drug Free Pain Management and Reversal. Draft a formal letter of invitation to be sent to all the members to attend the workshop. Request them to be punctual. Invent relevant details.

[4 Marks]

**Answer:**

Secretary  
Civil Medical Doctors Association  
Sheesh Nagar  
10 April 2024

To,  
All Members  
Civil Medical Doctors Association  
Sheesh Nagar

Subject: Invitation to Workshop on Drug Free Pain Management and Reversal

Dear Members,

On the occasion of World Health Day, the Civil Medical Doctors Association is pleased to arrange a workshop on **Drug Free Pain Management and Reversal**. The workshop aims to educate doctors about alternative, non-pharmacological methods to manage pain and reduce dependency on drugs. This initiative is vital in promoting better patient care and combating the growing issue of drug overuse.

The details of the workshop are as follows:

Date: 7 May 2024

Time: 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Venue: Community Hall, Sheesh Nagar

We cordially invite all members to attend this important event. Your punctuality will be highly appreciated as the sessions will be scheduled strictly. Kindly confirm your participation by 30 April 2024.

Let us come together to enhance our knowledge and contribute towards a healthier society.

With regards,  
Satyajit  
Secretary  
Civil Medical Doctors Association  
Sheesh Nagar

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**Section E**

### Question 19.

You are the President of the Cultural Club of Marigold Public School, Vir Nagar. As part of the Annual Community Service Week, you are planning to put up a cultural performance in 'Ahista', a senior citizens home. Draft a notice for the school notice board inviting participation by the students. Invent necessary details.

[4 Marks]

Answer:

## MARIGOLD PUBLIC SCHOOL, VIR NAGAR

### NOTICE

Date: 12th June 2024

All the students of Marigold Public School are hereby informed that the Cultural Club is organizing a cultural performance at 'Ahista', the senior citizens home located in Vir Nagar, as a part of the Annual Community Service Week. We invite enthusiastic and talented students to participate in this event and entertain the senior citizens with songs, dances, skits, or poetry recitations.

The event will be held on 25th June 2024 from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM. Interested participants are requested to register their names with the Cultural Club coordinator by 18th June 2024.

Don't miss this great opportunity to serve the community and showcase your talents!

**President, Cultural Club**

Marigold Public School,  
Vir Nagar

### Question 20.

As Chief Librarian of Little Wood Library, Birpur, draft a notice informing members about the change in winter timings, effective from 1st April, 2024. Also inform the members about the newly introduced electronic international journal support service with a remote accessing facility. Invent necessary details.

[4 Marks]

Answer:

## LITTLE WOOD LIBRARY, BIRPUR

### NOTICE

Date: 28th March, 2024

This is to inform all library members that with effect from 1st April 2024, the winter timings of Little Wood Library will be changed. The new library hours will be from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on all working days. Members are requested to take note of the revised timings for their visits and use the library facilities accordingly.

Furthermore, we are pleased to announce the introduction of an electronic International Journal Support Service. This new service offers remote access to a wide range of international journals and research papers to support your academic and research needs. Members can access these journals from their homes or any remote location using their library membership ID and password assigned at the circulation desk.

For assistance regarding the new service and accessing the journals remotely, please contact the library helpdesk or email [librarian@littlewoodlib.org](mailto:librarian@littlewoodlib.org). We encourage all members to make the best use of this modern facility.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A. Sharma

Chief Librarian

Little Wood Library, Birpur

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## Section F

**Question 21.** You are Shri E.A.S. Prasad, a well-known local cricketer. You have been invited as a chief guest for an inter-school cricket championship in K.P.S School, Mahabagh. Create an appropriate formal letter of acceptance.

[4 Marks]

**Question 22.**

You have been making documentaries on how rivers, the lifelines of our nation, are under serious threat due to river pollution. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily, examining the reasons for this pollution and suggesting ways of tackling the issue. Use the given cues along with your own ideas to compose this letter. You are Srishti/Suraj, a concerned student.

Reasons

- pollution
- industrial waste

- agricultural runoff
- human sewage

#### Solutions

- strict laws
- monitoring committees
- waste handling process
- educate the masses

[5 Marks]

#### Answer:

22 June 2024

New Delhi

To,  
The Editor,  
The National Daily,  
New Delhi.

Subject: Urgent Need to Address River Pollution

Respected Sir/Madam,

I am Suraj, a concerned student who has recently been making documentaries highlighting the increasing pollution in our rivers, the lifelines of our nation. I wish to bring to the public's attention the critical reasons for this pollution and suggest solutions to tackle this grave issue.

Rivers are being severely polluted due to discharge of industrial waste directly into water bodies, agricultural runoff containing harmful pesticides and fertilizers, and dumping of untreated human sewage. These factors not only damage aquatic life but also affect the health of millions dependent on river water for drinking, bathing, and irrigation.

To combat this problem, it is imperative that the government enforces strict laws regulating industrial discharge and penalizes violations. Setting up monitoring committees can ensure that these laws are followed and help keep a check on pollution sources. Proper waste handling and treatment processes must be implemented for industrial and domestic waste.

Furthermore, educating the masses about the importance of keeping rivers clean through awareness campaigns will encourage responsible behavior towards our water bodies.

In conclusion, urgent collective action involving strict regulation, monitoring, improved waste management, and public participation is needed to restore the health of our rivers and secure our nation's future.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,  
Suraj

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## Section G

### Question 23.

You are Priti/Pramod Vats, a resident of 317, Rajdhani Enclave, Rajbagh. You saw the given advertisement in the newspaper and wish to apply for the same. Write a letter to the Personnel Manager along with your bio-data, expressing your interest in the advertised post.

[5 Marks]

### Answer:

317, Rajdhani Enclave,  
Rajbagh,  
15 November 2005

To,  
The Personnel Manager,  
[Company Name],  
500 016

Subject: Application for the post of Customer Support Executive

Dear Sir/Madam,

I came across your advertisement in The Hindu dated 15 November 2005 for the post of Customer Support Executive. I am very interested in applying for this position.

I have completed my graduation and possess good communication skills and computer knowledge, which I believe are essential for this role. I am confident that my dedication

and enthusiasm make me a suitable candidate for this post.

Enclosed herewith is my bio-data and a passport size photograph as requested. I hope to get an opportunity to discuss my qualifications and skills further in an interview.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to your positive response.

Yours faithfully,  
Priti/Pramod Vats

## Bio-data

**Name:** Priti/Pramod Vats

**Address:** 317, Rajdhani Enclave, Rajbagh

**Qualification:** Graduated

**Skills:** Good communication skills, computer knowledge

**Contact No.:** [Your Contact Number]

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## Section H

**Question 24.** With rapid digitalization, students have started depending on digital devices for entertainment. This has impacted their lives, both positively and negatively. Write an article with the help of the given cues and your own ideas, highlighting the advantages and disadvantages of using digital devices. You are Rohini/Rohit.

[5 Marks]

**Answer:**

### Impact of Digital Devices on Students

In today's digital age, students increasingly rely on digital devices like smartphones, tablets, and computers, mostly for entertainment. While digitalization offers many benefits, it also brings challenges that affect students' daily lives.

On the positive side, digital devices provide easy access to information and learning resources. Students can watch educational videos, participate in online classes, and access study material anytime, anywhere. Devices also facilitate communication with peers and teachers, helping overcome geographical barriers. Furthermore, digital services have simplified many routine tasks such as online exam registrations, checking results, and booking tickets, making life more convenient.

However, excessive use of digital devices for entertainment can be harmful. It may lead to reduced physical activity, causing health issues like eye strain and poor posture. Many students get distracted by games, social media, and videos, which can affect their

concentration and academic performance. Moreover, overexposure to digital screens might impact sleep quality and mental well-being. Dependence on devices can also reduce face-to-face interactions, limiting social skills development.

To understand these effects better, I, along with my group members, conducted a survey in our neighborhood to collect opinions on the use of digital devices. We tabulated the results and noted that while most appreciated the convenience, many expressed concern about addiction and health impacts. We created charts to visually display these findings and shared our report with the class to raise awareness.

In conclusion, digital devices are powerful tools that should be used wisely. Students must balance entertainment with study and physical activity. Encouraging digital literacy and responsible usage can help maximize the advantages and minimize the disadvantages of digitalization.

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## Section I

### Question 25.

The student counselling department in your school put up the following poster regarding an event in the community centre:

As Rita/Rahul, student editor, write a report on the above workshop for the school magazine.

[5 Marks]

### Answer:

#### Report on the Workshop on Digital Devices

The student counselling department of our school recently organised an informative workshop on the use of digital devices at the local community centre. The event aimed to educate students and members of the community about the advantages and disadvantages of digital devices in daily life.

The workshop was attended by more than fifty people, including students, parents, and teachers. Experts talked about how digital devices have transformed education, communication and entertainment, while also highlighting the health issues and distractions caused by excessive use.

The participants were shown various charts and presentations illustrating the impact of digital devices on productivity and health. An opinionnaire was conducted among the attendees to gather their views, which revealed that most people are aware of the

benefits but also concerned about the risks. The organisers encouraged responsible usage, suggesting time management and taking regular breaks.

The event included interactive sessions where attendees could ask questions and share their personal experiences. It ended with a call to balance the use of technology with outdoor activities and face-to-face interactions.

Overall, the workshop was very informative and created awareness about using digital devices wisely. The student counselling department deserves appreciation for conducting such a meaningful event.

Rita/Rahul  
Student Editor

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## Section J

**Question 26.** Franz in "The Last Lesson" realizes the importance of going to school while Saheb in "Lost Spring" yearns to go to school. Write a paragraph exploring the different perspectives of these two young boys on learning and education.

[5 Marks]

**Answer:** Franz, in 'The Last Lesson,' initially doesn't appreciate the value of education and often skips school. However, on the day of the last French lesson taught by M. Hamel before the Prussian rule takes over, he realizes how much he missed out by not attending school seriously. Franz becomes keenly aware of how precious education is as it symbolizes cultural identity and freedom. In contrast, Saheb from 'Lost Spring' is a young street child who deeply yearns to attend school and escape the harsh realities of child labor. Despite his desire to learn, socioeconomic circumstances, such as poverty and family traditions, prevent him from getting an education. This contrast highlights two different perspectives on education: Franz's late appreciation of learning when faced with loss, and Saheb's hopeful longing for education amid adversity. Both boys embody the universal aspiration for knowledge and the transformative power of education, but their paths and situations differ significantly.

**Question 27.** Justify the statement, 'It may take a long time for oppression to be resisted but the seeds of rebellion are sowed early in life.' (Memories of Childhood)

[5 Marks]

**Answer:** The statement that "It may take a long time for oppression to be resisted but the seeds of rebellion are sowed early in life" highlights an important truth about human nature and social injustice. Even children notice injustice and oppression around them. Although they may not openly resist or rebel immediately, these early experiences plant the seeds of awareness and dissent. Over time, as they grow in intelligence and understanding, this early sensitivity to unfairness can develop into a strong spirit of

resistance. It is said that human nature can be shaped from a young age, as the education and environment around children influence their worldview. The conditioning by the oppressor class and submission of the oppressed are learned behaviors, but the innate recognition of injustice remains. The process of resistance may take time because true freedom and the ability to question arise from intelligence and critical thinking. Therefore, the early experiences of injustice awaken the mind and sow the seeds for future rebellion against oppression. This shows that while oppression might be long-lasting, the fight against it starts early in life with an inner sense of injustice and the gradual cultivation of resistance.

**Question 28.** The story "The Tiger King" is a satire on the conceit of those in power. How does the author employ the literary device of dramatic irony in the story?

[5 Marks]

**Answer:** The story "The Tiger King" by Kalki Krishnamurthy is a satire that exposes the arrogance and folly of those in power through the use of dramatic irony. Dramatic irony occurs when the audience knows something that the characters do not. In the story, the Tiger King is confident, boastful, and obsessed with killing tigers to enhance his reputation and prove his bravery. However, the readers understand the futility of his actions and foresee the ironic end awaiting him. The King's belief in his invincibility contrasts sharply with the astrologers' warning about his death, which he chooses to ignore. As a result, the dramatic irony builds when the tiger hunters hire a cunning hunter to kill the king, cleverly disguised as a tiger skin. The king's downfall through his own obsession and conceit reveals the absurdity of his pride and the tragic blindness of those drunk with power. Therefore, Kalki masterfully employs dramatic irony to ridicule the arrogance of rulers and to show how their inability to see their own flaws leads to their downfall. This adds depth to the satire by engaging the reader in the unfolding events, while the king remains oblivious to his impending doom until it is too late.

**Question 29.** Write a comparative analysis for your study group focusing on how the poems "Keeping Quiet" and "My Mother at Sixty-six" illuminate the different facets of human introspection and the significance of quiet reflection in understanding oneself.

[5 Marks]

**Answer:** The poems "Keeping Quiet" by Pablo Neruda and "My Mother at Sixty-six" by Kamala Das both explore human introspection and the role of quiet reflection, albeit in different contexts and styles. In "Keeping Quiet," Neruda emphasizes the significance of collective silence and stillness as a means to foster understanding, peace, and a deep connection with oneself and the world. He urges people to pause, reflect on their actions, and awaken to the shared humanity beyond differences. This poem advocates for an external and societal form of introspection that can lead to global harmony. On the other hand, Kamala Das's "My Mother at Sixty-six" offers a deeply personal and intimate portrayal of introspection. The poet reflects on her mother's aging and mortality, which evokes feelings of love, fear, and vulnerability. The quiet moments during the car journey

symbolize the poet's internal contemplation about life, aging, and the inevitable passage of time. The stillness here captures the raw complexity of human relationships and personal understanding. While Neruda's poem focuses on broad, philosophical introspection aimed at self-awareness and universal peace, Das's poem delves into the emotional, personal facet of introspection involving family and the passage of time. Both poems underscore the importance of quiet reflection as a vital process to understand oneself and the world better. Through different lenses—one universal, one personal—they beautifully highlight how silence and reflection enrich human experience and self-awareness.

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