

CBSE EXAMINATION PAPER-2025

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 21** are report
- ix. **Section G** – questions number **22 to 22** are article
- x. **Section H** – questions number **23 to 26** are long answer
- xi. **Section I** – questions number **27 to 28** are letter
- xii. **Section J** – questions number **29 to 29** are job application
- 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) Having a sense of humour might mean having the ability to entertain other people by making them laugh, but it can also mean having a quick wit that is frequently employed to criticize other people with snide comments. Some might define the sense of humour as the ability to see humour in everyday life or as appreciating the cleverness of puns and other wordplay, and may think it entirely possible to possess a good sense of humour without ever having those around them become aware of it.

(2) In any case, a sense of humour is a socially valued trait that almost all of us would prefer to have more, rather than less, of – akin to the way that we think about intelligence or good looks. A person with an undeveloped sense of humour lacks a social skill that puts him or her at a severe disadvantage in the hurly-burly of everyday social life.

(3) Freud thought of humour as an outlet for forbidden impulses, and philosophers ranging from Aristotle to Descartes believed that we are amused by something when it makes us feel superior to other people.

(4) Evolutionary psychologists believe that humour, along with other creative abilities, such as art and music, evolved as an honest signal of intelligence and genetic quality. The value of such a skill in defusing tense, aggressive situations and in managing alliances and friendships should not be underestimated either.

(5) Schmoozing with a bunch of new people at a cocktail party is an opportunity to engage in light hearted banter, and other people are grateful when someone is skillful enough to turn a stiff and awkward situation into fun. Cracking jokes, making witty remarks, and engaging in tongue-in-cheek observations about the social world can be like fishing for other minds that connect naturally with one's own. In other words, humour can be a device for connecting people who are operating on the same wavelength.

(6) Observing the performance of other people in such situations tips you off as to who you might like to get to know better – and who might be best left behind, wallowing in indignation and blank stares. In short, a sense of humour is the Swiss Army Knife of social skills. Perhaps it is indeed a single instrument, but it contains an arsenal of tools – each exquisitely designed for a unique social purpose.

Answer the following questions, based on the given passage above :

(1) Provide ONE textual evidence from the text which states lack of sense of humour may prove to be a handicap in one's life.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The passage states, "A person with an undeveloped sense of humour lacks a social skill that puts him or her at a severe disadvantage in the hurly-burly of everyday social life."

Key Points: Textual evidence from paragraph 2 - Lack of sense of humour is a social handicap - Puts a person at a severe disadvantage socially - Highlights importance of humour as a social skill

(2) In the line 'perhaps it is indeed a single instrument, but it contains an arsenal of tools...', what does the phrase 'arsenal of tools' refer to?

[2 Marks]

Answer: The phrase 'arsenal of tools' refers to the many different ways or techniques that a sense of humour can be used in social situations. Though humour is one skill, it has many uses such as making others laugh, easing tension, connecting with people, and handling social interactions effectively.

Key Points: The sense of humour is like a single tool with several uses-It includes making others laugh-Helps in defusing tense situations-Connects people on the same wavelength-Useful for managing friendships and social life

(3)

An undeveloped sense of humour shows lack of a social skill that puts him or her at a disadvantage.

Choose the correct option (A) or (B) which reaffirms the idea conveyed in the above extract. (A) Sense of humour elevates the status of a person in the social circle.

(B) People with sense of humour are not taken seriously in the society.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Option (A) is correct because having a sense of humour is a valued social skill that helps a person connect with others and be appreciated in social circles. It elevates the social status of a person rather than diminishing it.

Key Points: Sense of humour is a valuable social skill-Sense of humour helps connect with others-Having sense of humour puts a person at advantage in

(4)

Complete the following sentence suitably with reference to paragraph 3:

One significant advantage of humour is that it helps one...

[1 Marks]

Answer: One significant advantage of humour is that it helps one express forbidden impulses and feel superior to others, which provides amusement.

Key Points: Humour as an outlet for forbidden impulses–Freud's view–Humour makes people feel superior to others–Philosophers' perspective on amusement

(5) Provide ONE textual evidence with reference to paragraph 5, how a good sense of humour can be a great ice breaker.

[1 Marks]

Answer: "Schmoozing with a bunch of new people at a cocktail party is an opportunity to engage in light hearted banter, and other people are grateful when someone is skillful enough to turn a stiff and awkward situation into fun." This shows that a good sense of humour helps break the ice in new social situations by making interactions enjoyable and less tense.

Key Points: Paragraph 5 talks about social situations like a cocktail party - Humour used as light hearted banter–Humour can turn awkward situations into enjoyable ones–Humour connects people and makes socialising easier

(6) Cite evidences from the passage to prove that sense of humour is a valuable tool to make someone's life better.

[2 Marks]

Answer: The passage shows that a sense of humour is a valuable social skill that helps people connect with others and make life better. In paragraph 5, it is said that humour can turn a stiff and awkward situation into fun, which makes socializing easier. Also,

humour acts as a device for connecting people who think alike. In paragraph 4, it is mentioned that humour helps in managing friendships and defusing tense situations. Therefore, humour improves social interactions and makes life more enjoyable.

Key Points: Sense of humour is a socially valued trait- Helps in making others laugh and lightening awkward situations- Connects people who are on the same wavelength- Defuses tense and aggressive situations- Helps in managing friendships and social alliances

(7) How does the author prove in paragraph 1 that sense of humour is a double edged sword?

[1 Marks]

Answer: In paragraph 1, the author shows that sense of humour is a double edged sword by explaining that it can be used in two ways. One way is positive, where a person entertains others by making them laugh. The other way is negative, where a person uses quick wit to criticize others with snide comments. This shows that humour can be both enjoyable and hurtful, depending on how it is used.

Key Points: Sense of humour can entertain people and make them laugh - Sense of humour can also be used to criticize others with snide remarks - It has both positive and negative aspects - Shows humour as a double edged sword

(8)

Complete the analogy with one word from paragraph 6:

advantage : benefit : : anger :

- (A) situation
- (B) stare
- (C) indignation
- (D) arsenal

[1 Marks]

Answer: The correct word to complete the analogy is 'indignation'. The analogy is "advantage : benefit :: indignation : anger" because 'benefit' is a synonym for 'advantage' and 'indignation' is a synonym for 'anger'.

Key Points: Identify the analogy pattern- advantage is related to benefit as a positive trait; similarly, anger relates to indignation as a negative emotion- Both pairs show a synonym relationship- Word 'indignation' is taken directly from paragraph 6- Recognize that 'indignation' means anger or strong displeasure.

(9)

Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank:

According to evolutionary psychologists, people with a sense of humour can..... (trigger / lighten) tense situation.

[1 Marks]

Answer: According to evolutionary psychologists, people with a sense of humour can lighten tense situations.

Key Points: Evolutionary psychologists believe humour helps in defusing tension- humour is a social skill-eases aggressive or tense situations-people with humour help lighten moods.

(10)

Choose the correct option :

"... humour can be a device for connecting people who are operating on the same wavelength." By the phrase 'same wavelength' the author refers to

- (A) people of age group
- (B) people who belong to same line of profession.
- (C) people having similar interests and attitudes.
- (D) people who are working in the same organisation.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The phrase 'same wavelength' refers to people having similar interests and attitudes. So, the correct option is (C) people having similar interests and attitudes.

Key Points: Meaning of 'same wavelength'- Refers to people who connect well due to shared interests and attitudes- Context from passage about humour connecting people- Correct option is (C)

Question 2.

Read the passage carefully :

(1) This report presents findings from the Youth Aspirations in India Survey in which 5,764 youth between the ages of 15 and 30 were asked about their employment, education, and skilling aspirations.

(2) Indian youth valued higher education. 50 percent of respondents aspire to attain a post-graduate degree, 24 percent a PhD, and 21 percent a bachelor's degree. Only 2 percent of respondents hope to attain a college or vocational diploma as their highest form of education.

(3) Respondents have a strong preference for attaining higher education degrees. At the same time, there is an awareness of changing skills requirements and an interest in augmenting their skills. 76 percent of youth report being very interested in pursuing a skills development programme. 70 percent of youth identified more employment opportunities as the main motivation for wanting to pursue skills development training.

(4) A study related to their job preference reveals their strong desire for job security and opportunities for career advancement. It is evident from the following data :

(5) In the context of technological adoption and digitization, jobs and tasks, along with the competencies required to execute them, are changing. 86 percent of youth feel very or moderately up to date with changes in skills requirements. Yet, 39 percent of youth feel very prepared or prepared for their ideal job, while 16 percent of youth feel either not prepared or very unprepared for their ideal job.

(6) Female respondents' education and employment aspirations match, if not exceed, those of male respondents. Yet, female respondents face discriminatory biases in hiring, have less paid work experience than their male counterparts, and face greater barriers in pursuing skills development opportunities. 60 percent of female respondents, for example, report having no paid work experience, compared to 54 percent of male respondents. In addition, 15 percent of female respondents report personal biases such as marital status, gender, age, or family background as a main barrier to employment compared to 9 percent of male respondents. While more female respondents report being very interested

in participating in a skills development programme, only 19 percent have enrolled in a programme, compared to 26 percent of male respondents.

Answer the following questions, based on the given passage :

(1)

As per the survey, Indian youth is broadly focused on

- (A) skill development and entrepreneurship.
- (B) private sector jobs and technology.
- (C) higher education and career opportunities.
- (D) vocational diploma and public sector jobs.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The survey reveals that Indian youth broadly focus on higher education and career opportunities.

Key Points: Indian youth value higher education- Majority aspire for postgraduate, PhD, or bachelor's degrees- Strong interest in skill development programs- Motivation for skill development is mainly employment opportunities- Desire for job security and career advancement

(2) With reference to paragraph 3, what is the latest trend among Indian youth in preparing themselves for the job market?

[1 Marks]

Answer: The latest trend among Indian youth is that a large majority are very interested in pursuing skills development programmes to improve their abilities. About 76 percent of youth want to augment their skills, mainly motivated by the hope of finding more employment opportunities.

Key Points: Indian youth show strong interest in skills development programmes- 76 percent youth are very interested in such programmes- The main motivation for pursuing skills training is to get more employment opportunities

(3) Cite two evidences from the text to show that gender bias is still a hindrance in the progress of women in society.

[2 Marks]

Answer: Two evidences from the text showing that gender bias is still a hindrance in women's progress are: First, 60 percent of female respondents report having no paid work experience compared to 54 percent of male respondents, indicating that women have less work experience. Second, 15 percent of female respondents report personal biases such as marital status, gender, age, or family background as a main barrier to employment, compared to only 9 percent of male respondents. These show that women face discrimination and barriers in employment and skill development opportunities.

Key Points: Higher percentage of females with no paid work experience- Females face personal biases like marital status and gender as employment barriers- Fewer females enrolled in skills development programmes compared to males

(4)

Complete the following sentence suitably:

The driving force for the Indian youth to join a skill development programme is

[1 Marks]

Answer: The driving force for the Indian youth to join a skill development programme is the opportunity to get more employment.

Key Points: Majority of youth want to join skill development programmes- They believe it will help them get better job opportunities- Employment prospects is the main motivation for skill training

(5)

Choose the correct option:

The main roadblocks to employment opportunities for females are:

(i) lack of interest

- (ii) marriage
- (iii) lack of opportunities
- (iv) over qualification
- (v) family background

- A) (i) & (ii)
- B) (iii) & (iv)
- C) (ii), (iii) & (v)
- D) (iv) & (v)

[1 Marks]

Answer: The main roadblocks to employment opportunities for females are marriage and family background. Hence, the correct option is C) (ii), (iii) & (v).

Key Points: Female respondents face personal biases such as marital status and family background as barriers to employment-Passage mentions marriage as a factor under personal bias-Marriage relates to option (ii)-Family background relates to option (v)-Lack of opportunities is implied as barriers in hiring and less paid work experience-These correspond to options (ii), (iii), and (v)-Option (i) lack of interest is incorrect as females show high interest in skills programmes-Option (iv) over qualification is not mentioned as a barrier

(6) Cite two evidences from the text to show that Indian youth is adapting itself to the needs of the job market.

[2 Marks]

Answer: Indian youth are adapting to the job market needs as 76 percent of them show a strong interest in pursuing skills development programmes, recognizing the importance of upgrading their abilities. Additionally, 86 percent of youth feel very or moderately up to date with the changing skills requirements due to technological advancements and digitization.

Key Points: 76% youth interested in skills development programmes-70% motivated by more employment opportunities-86% youth feel up to date with changing job skills

(7)

Paragraph 5 uses the words 'competencies' and 'adoption'. Classify the following sentences which talks about 'competency' and which talks about 'adoption':

Sentence 1: Ria embraced new technology to gain global market for her paintings.

Sentence 2: Ria displays her artistic skill through her paintings.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Sentence 1 talks about 'adoption' because it shows Ria embracing or using new technology. Sentence 2 talks about 'competency' because it shows Ria displaying her skill or ability in painting.

Key Points: Competency means having the necessary skills or ability to do something well - Sentence 2 talks about competency-Adoption means accepting or starting to use new technology or ideas - Sentence 1 talks about adoption

(8) With reference to the table, state one reason for entrepreneurship being the last preference among Indian youth.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Entrepreneurship is the last preference among Indian youth mainly because they prefer job security and steady career advancement, which are not guaranteed in entrepreneurial ventures.

Key Points: Youth prefer job security-Entrepreneurship involves risk and uncertainty-Most youth opt for stable employment with career growth

Section B

Question 3.

Read the following extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the given two (A) or (B) :

It is in the news that all these pitiful kin

Are to be bought out and mercifully gathered in
To live in villages, next to the theatre and the store.
Where they won't have to think for themselves anymore,
While greedy good-doers, beneficent beasts of prey,
Swarm over their lives enforcing benefits
That are calculated to soothe them out of their wits,
And by teaching them how to sleep they sleep all day
Destroy their sleeping at night the ancient way. (A Roadside Stand)

(1)

Read the Assertion and the Reason below, with reference to the extract.

Assertion: The poet complains that the rural people are exploited by the people in power. Reason: The rural people reposed blind faith in the false promises of the people in power. Choose the correct option regarding their relationship.

- (A) Both the Assertion and the Reason are true and the Reason is the correct explanation.
- (B) Both the Assertion and the Reason are true, but the Reason is not the correct explanation of the Assertion.
- (C) The Assertion is true, but the Reason is false.
- (D) The Assertion is false, but the Reason is true.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Option (A) Both the Assertion and the Reason are true and the Reason is the correct explanation. The poet in the extract complains about the exploitation of rural people by those in power who make false promises. The rural people trust these promises blindly and do not think for themselves, which leads to their exploitation.

Key Points: Assertion: Poet complains about exploitation of rural people–People in power exploit the rural folk–Reasons: Rural people trust blindly–False promises made by powerful–People in power control and enforce benefits that harm rural lives–Poet's criticism of blind faith leading to exploitation.

(2)

Complete the following suitably.

The tone of the poet in the above extract is.....

[1 Marks]

Answer: The tone of the poet in the above extract is critical and sarcastic.

Key Points: Critical tone-Sarcastic attitude-Poet condemns the so-called 'good-doers'-Feigned help that destroys individuality-Helplessness of the poor people highlighted

(3)

Complete the following suitably:

In the line 'that are calculated to soothe them out of their wits', the phrase 'soothe them out of their wit' refers to.....

[1 Marks]

Answer: The phrase 'soothe them out of their wits' refers to making the people lose their ability to think and reason for themselves due to the controlling and patronizing benefits imposed on them.

Key Points: The phrase means affecting their reasoning power-The benefits are imposed by 'greedy good-doers'-They control and make people dependent-The people lose their independent thinking ability-The expression shows patronizing attitude of the benefactors

(4)

The expression 'It is in the news' suggests

- (A) it is good news for the roadside stand owners.
- (B) an important decision has been taken by the government.
- (C) the roadside stand owners have protested against the government.

(D) that the news was not there in the newspaper.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The expression 'It is in the news' suggests that an important decision has been taken by the government regarding the roadside stand owners.

Key Points: The phrase 'It is in the news' indicates the announcement of a significant decision by authorities- The extract talks about the pitiful kin being 'bought out' and gathered in villages by the government- This shows government intervention and decisions affecting the roadside stand owners- It does not indicate good news or protest by the owners- Therefore, option (B) is correct

(5)

Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank.

The poet uses the expression 'greedy good-doers' to..... (criticize / appreciate) the intention of the powerful people.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The poet uses the expression 'greedy good-doers' to criticize the intentions of the powerful people. Although they appear to be doing good, their actions actually control and suppress the lives of the poor, stopping them from thinking and living freely.

Key Points: The phrase 'greedy good-doers' is ironic - it criticizes not appreciates - Powerful people impose so-called benefits - These benefits restrict freedom and thinking of the poor - Poet highlights exploitation under the disguise of help

(6) Bring out the irony in the expression 'they won't have to think for themselves'.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The expression 'they won't have to think for themselves' is ironic because it suggests that the villagers will be relieved from the burden of making their own decisions. However, in reality, it means that the villagers will lose their freedom and independence, as the 'greedy good-doers' will control their lives and decisions. Instead

of helping, these so-called helpers suppress the villagers' ability to think and act independently.

Key Points: The phrase implies loss of freedom-Irony lies in forced dependence on 'good-doers'-Villagers lose their independence-Helpers are actually controlling and oppressive-The phrase criticizes the superficial help given to poor villagers

Question 4.

If we were not so single-minded
about keeping our lives moving,
and for once could do nothing,
perhaps a huge silence
might interrupt this sadness
of never understanding ourselves with death.
Perhaps the Earth can teach us
as when everything seems dead
and later proves to be alive.
Now I'll count up to twelve
And you keep quiet and I will go. (Keeping Quiet)

(1)

Complete the following suitably.

The poet uses the expression 'single minded' to refer to.....

[1 Marks]

Answer: The poet uses the expression 'single-minded' to refer to being always focused on keeping our lives active and busy without taking a pause.

Key Points: single-minded means focused or determined-only on one thing-being busy-all the time-never taking a break

(2) Why does the poet refer to silence as a welcoming interruption?

[1 Marks]

Answer: The poet refers to silence as a welcoming interruption because it allows us to pause from our busy lives and reflect on ourselves and life. Silence breaks the continuous sadness of not understanding ourselves and gives us a chance to connect with deeper truths, just like the Earth which appears dead but is actually alive. It is a moment of calm and realization.

Key Points: Silence allows pause from busy life-Silence helps us understand ourselves better-Silence interrupts sadness and confusion-Silence is compared to Earth's period of apparent death but real life inside-Silence offers calm and reflection

(3)

Complete the following suitably.

By the expression "keeping our lives moving" the poet refers to.....

[1 Marks]

Answer: By the expression "keeping our lives moving" the poet refers to our constant rush and busyness in life where we do not pause or reflect.

Key Points: constant rush in life - busyness and restlessness - lack of pause and reflection

(4)

Choose the correct option.

The intention of the poet in the above extract is

- (A) to make us aware of the importance of Earth.
- (B) to criticize our single mindedness.
- (C) to highlight the reason for our sadness.
- (D) to highlight the importance of sustaining peace and silence.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The intention of the poet in the above extract is to highlight the importance of sustaining peace and silence. The poet emphasizes the value of pausing and being quiet to understand ourselves better and to break the sadness caused by continuous rushing in life.

Key Points: Poet emphasizes importance of silence–Pausing helps self-understanding–Criticizes constant hurry and single-mindedness–Silence leads to peace and inner realization

(5)

Read the Assertion and the Reason below, with reference to the given extract.

Assertion: The poet personifies Earth as a teacher.

Reason: We learn from the Earth that pausing doesn't mean the end. Choose the correct option regarding their relationship.

Choose the correct option regarding their relationship.

- (A) Both the Assertion and the Reason are true, and the Reason is the correct explanation of the Assertion.
- (B) Both the Assertion and the Reason are true, but the Reason is not the correct explanation of the Assertion.
- (C) The Assertion is true, but the Reason is false.
- (D) The Assertion is false, but the Reason is true.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Option (A) Both the Assertion and the Reason are true, and the Reason is the correct explanation of the Assertion. The poet personifies the Earth as a teacher because we learn from it that even when everything appears dead or inactive, life

continues and revives later. This teaches us that pausing or silence is necessary and does not signify the end.

Key Points: Poet personifies Earth as a teacher- Earth shows that apparent death is followed by new life- Pausing does not mean the end- Earth teaches us about life and silence- Both assertion and reason are true and related

(6) What is the significance of the last line of the extract 'you keep quiet and I will go'?

[1 Marks]

Answer: The last line 'you keep quiet and I will go' signifies a call for stillness and reflection. The poet asks everyone to be silent and pause their busy lives for a moment. It is a symbolic gesture inviting us to stop and think deeply about ourselves and the world, helping us understand life and death better. This silence can lead to inner peace and a greater connection with nature.

Key Points: The line emphasizes silence and stillness-It invites people to pause and reflect-It symbolizes a break from constant activity-It helps in understanding life, death, and nature-It suggests a peaceful coexistence and self-awareness

Question 5. When I heard this, I didn't want to laugh any more, and I felt terribly sad. How could they believe that it was disgusting if one of us held that package in his hands, even though the Vadai had been wrapped first in a banana leaf, and then parcelled in paper? I felt so provoked and angry that I wanted to touch those wretched Vadais myself straight away. Why should we have to fetch and carry for these people. I wondered. Such an important elder of ours goes meekly to the shops to fetch snacks and hands over reverently, bowing and shrinking, to this fellow who just sits there and stuffs them into his mouth. The thought of it infuriated me. (Memories of Childhood)

(1)

'I felt terribly sad.' The reason for the speaker's sadness is because it was an act of.....

[1 Marks]

Answer: The speaker felt terribly sad because it was an act of discrimination and untouchability.

Key Points: Speaker's sadness – due to discrimination- Untouchability shown by upper caste people- The elder fetching snacks bowed and served meekly- Vadais considered impure despite being wrapped- Feeling of social injustice and insult

(2)

Choose the correct option:

'The thought of it infuriated me' – what do you think is the impact of the incident on the speaker?

- (A) The speaker was sympathetic and helpless.
- (B) The speaker was angry and condemning.
- (C) The speaker was excited to see the incident.
- (D) The speaker was very impressed and motivated.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The correct option is (B) The speaker was angry and condemning. The speaker feels provoked and angry on seeing how the elder meekly carries snacks and the other fellow eats them without respect. The thought of caste discrimination and the way they are treated infuriates the speaker.

Key Points: Speaker feels angry and provoked-Speaker condemns the caste discrimination-The incident causes strong negative feelings in the speaker-The speaker is not sympathetic or excited but furious about the disrespect

(3)

Select the correct option to fill in the blank:

The incident made the speaker realize that the discrimination was.....
(dehumanizing / elevating)

[1 Marks]

Answer: The incident made the speaker realize that the discrimination was dehumanizing because he saw how the elder was treated with disrespect and looked

down upon just because of caste prejudice.

Key Points: The discrimination seemed disgusting and humiliating–The elder had to bow down and carry snacks submissively–The upper caste people believed that touching the package would pollute them–This behavior made the speaker angry and sad–It showed the unfair and degrading treatment based on caste

(4)

Complete the sentence suitably:

'I wanted to touch those wretched Vadais myself' indicates the speaker's.....

[1 Marks]

Answer: 'I wanted to touch those wretched Vadais myself' indicates the speaker's anger and frustration at the unfair treatment and discrimination faced by his community.

Key Points: The speaker feels provoked and angry–The speaker is frustrated with the caste discrimination–The desire to touch the Vadais shows rejection of the notion that it is disgusting–The speaker is questioning the unfair social norms

Question 6.

Mr. Lamb: When I go down the streets, the kids shout 'Lamey Lamb'. But they will come into the garden, into my house; it's a game. They're not afraid of me. Why should they be? Because I'm not afraid of them, that's why not.

Derry: Did you get your leg blown off in the war?

Mr. Lamb: Certainly.

Derry: How will you climb on a ladder and get the crab apples down, then?

Mr. Lamb: Oh, there's a lot of things I've learned to do and plenty of time for it. Years. I take it steady. (On the Face of It)

(1) Derry, how will you climb on a ladder? What does Derry hint at in the above query?

[1 Marks]

Answer: Derry asks Mr. Lamb how he will climb a ladder to get the crab apples down, hinting at Mr. Lamb's physical difficulty because he has lost a leg in the war. This question shows Derry's awareness of Mr. Lamb's disability.

Key Points: Derry's question refers to Mr. Lamb's lost leg–Derry is hinting at Mr. Lamb's physical limitation–Derry acknowledges the challenge Mr. Lamb faces because of his disability

(2)

Complete the following suitably:

'Years. I take it steady'. The above line speaks of the speaker's.....

[1 Marks]

Answer: 'Years. I take it steady' speaks of the speaker's patience and acceptance towards his disability and the slow but steady approach he has adapted to overcome his difficulties.

Key Points: Speaker's patience–Speaker's acceptance of his disability–Speaker's slow and steady approach to challenges

(3)

Fill in the blank suitably:

Mr. Lamb's handicap has not _____ his attitude towards life.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Mr. Lamb's handicap has not affected his attitude towards life.

Key Points: Mr. Lamb lost his leg in the war –Despite his handicap, he remains positive and unafraid –He has adapted and learned new ways to do things –He takes life steadily and courageously –Handicap did not diminish his spirit or confidence

(4)

'When I go down the streets, the kids shout Lamey Lamb.'

The attitude of the speaker expressed in the above line is

- (A) his habit of finding fault.
- (B) he is timid and faint hearted.
- (C) his acceptance of reality and positive attitude.
- (D) his indifferent and careless attitude.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The attitude of the speaker, Mr. Lamb, in the line 'When I go down the streets, the kids shout Lamey Lamb' shows his acceptance of reality and a positive attitude. Although the kids call him 'Lamey Lamb' because of his disability, he does not feel hurt or timid. Instead, he accepts the situation calmly and even plays with the kids. So, the correct option is (C) his acceptance of reality and positive attitude.

Key Points: Mr. Lamb accepts his disability calmly—Mr. Lamb is not afraid of the kids—He has a positive attitude towards life despite challenges—The kids shouting does not bother him—He treats it as a game

Question 7.

Those were the days of mainly indoor shooting, and only five percent of the film was shot outdoors. I suppose the sets and studio lights needed the girls and boys to be made to look ugly in order to look presentable in the movie. A strict hierarchy was maintained in the make-up department. The chief make-up man made the chief actors and actresses ugly, his senior assistant 'second' hero and heroine, the junior assistant the main comedian and so forth. The players who played the crowd were the responsibility of the office boy. (Even the make-up department of the Gemini Studio had an 'office boy').

On the days when there was crowd-shooting, you could see him mixing his paint in a giant vessel and slapping it on the crowd players. The idea was to close every pore on the surface of the face in the process of applying make-up.

(Poets and Pancakes)

(1) What does the writer mean by the phrase 'indoor shooting' in the first line of the extract?

[1 Marks]

Answer: The writer means that most parts of the film were shot inside a studio or enclosed sets rather than outside. Only a small part of the film, about five percent, was filmed outdoors.

Key Points: Indoor shooting means filming inside a studio or enclosed sets – Most of the film was shot indoors – Only five percent of filming was done outdoors

(2) Pick up one sentence from the extract that reflects the sarcastic tone of the writer.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The sentence that reflects the sarcastic tone of the writer is: "I suppose the sets and studio lights needed the girls and boys to be made to look ugly in order to look presentable in the movie."

Key Points: Identify a sentence showing sarcasm – The writer mocks the idea that actors had to be made ugly to look good.- The sentence expresses irony about make-up making actors ugly to look presentable.- The tone is humorous and critical of studio practices.

(3)

The hierarchy in the make-up department puts the 'office boy' in the.....
(lowest / top) rung of the ladder.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The hierarchy in the make-up department puts the 'office boy' in the lowest rung of the ladder.

Key Points: Strict hierarchy in make-up department-Office boy handles crowd players-Office boy is assigned the least important job-Office boy is at the bottom of the ladder

(4)

Complete the following suitably:

On the days when there was 'crowd-shooting.' By the phrase crowd-shooting, the author refers to.....

[1 Marks]

Answer: By the phrase 'crowd-shooting,' the author refers to the film scenes where many crowd players appear together and need to be made up by the office boy, who applies make-up to all the crowd members.

Key Points: Crowd-shooting means scenes with many crowd players - Office boy was responsible for them - Make-up was applied to crowd players - These scenes had multiple background actors

(5)

Choose the correct option:

".....mix his paint in a giant vessel and slapping it on the crowd players."

The choice of words like 'paint' and 'slapping' by the author reflects

- (A) author's intention to degrade the office boy's role in the make-up department.
- (B) the office boy's lack of seriousness.
- (C) author's sarcastic and humorous writing style.
- (D) author's dislike of the office boy.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The words 'paint' and 'slapping' are used by the author to create a humorous and sarcastic tone describing the rough and crude way the office boy applied make-up on the crowd players. It reflects the author's sarcastic and humorous writing style.

Key Points: The words 'paint' and 'slapping' suggest a rough and crude application of make-up - The author uses these words humorously - Indicates

sarcasm about the make-up process for crowd players – The role of the office boy is depicted humorously, not with dislike or degradation

(6)

Choose the correct option:

What does the following line from the extract showcase?

“A strict hierarchy was maintained in the make-up department.”

- (A) The office boy took all the decisions in the make-up department.
- (B) A system of ranks according to importance of work was followed.
- (C) Everyone was given an equal share of work in the department.
- (D) Nepotism was prevalent in the make-up department.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The line "A strict hierarchy was maintained in the make-up department" means that there was a system of different ranks according to the importance of the work done by each person. The chief make-up man worked on the chief actors and actresses, while assistants worked on less important roles, and the office boy was responsible for the crowd. Hence, the correct option is (B) A system of ranks according to importance of work was followed.

Key Points: The make-up department had a clear rank system-The chief make-up man worked on chief actors-The senior assistant worked on second heroes/heroines-Juniors worked on comedians-The office boy worked on crowd players-The hierarchy showed importance by role

Question 8.

My Last French Lesson! Why, I hardly knew how to write! I should never learn any more! I must stop there, then! Oh, how sorry I was for not learning my lessons, for seeking birds' eggs or going sliding on the Saar! My books, that had seemed such a nuisance a while ago, so heavy to carry, my grammar, and my history of the saints, were old friends now that I couldn't give up and M. Hamel, too; the idea that he was going away, that I should never see him again, made me forget all about his ruler and how cranky he was.

Poor man! It was in honour of this last lesson that he had put on his fine Sunday clothes, and now I understood why the old men of the village were sitting there in the back of the room. It was because they were sorry, too, that they had not gone to school more. It was their way of thanking our master for his forty years of faithful service and of showing their respect for the country that was theirs no more. (The Last Lesson)

(1)

Choose the correct option:

What is the tone of the speaker in the expression 'I hardly knew how to write how sorry I was for not learning my lessons'?

- (A) confused
- (B) regretful
- (C) surprised
- (D) happy

[1 Marks]

Answer: The tone of the speaker in the expression is regretful because he feels sorry for not learning his lessons earlier and realizes the importance of education now, especially since this is the last French lesson.

Key Points: Feelings of sorrow for neglecting studies-Realization of the value of education-Expression of regret for past actions-Tone is regretful and remorseful

(2)

Choose the correct option :

The speaker refers to 'seeking birds' eggs' and 'sliding on the Saar' as

- (A) part of his routine
- (B) his daily routine
- (C) source of distraction from learning
- (D) fun time with friends

[1 Marks]

Answer: The speaker refers to 'seeking birds' eggs' and 'sliding on the Saar' as a source of distraction from learning. These were activities that kept him away from studying his lessons.

Key Points: Speaker regrets not studying–Hobbies like seeking birds' eggs and sliding on the Saar distracted him–These activities led to lack of learning–The correct option is (C) source of distraction from learning

(3) What is reflected through the shift in the speaker's perception of his books through his expression of calling them his 'old friends' rather than considering them as 'nuisance'?

[1 Marks]

Answer: The shift in the speaker's perception reflects his regret and realization of the importance of education. Initially, he found his books a nuisance and was careless about learning, but now he regards them as 'old friends' because he understands their true value and feels sorry for not having studied well.

Key Points: Regret for negligence–Realization of importance of education–Books now valued as cherished companions–Change from carelessness to appreciation

(4) What does M. Hamel's ruler reflect about his image?

[1 Marks]

Answer: M. Hamel's ruler reflects that he is a strict and disciplined teacher. Although he was sometimes cranky, it shows his dedication to teaching and maintaining order in the classroom.

Key Points: M. Hamel was strict and disciplined – His ruler symbolizes authority in the classroom – Despite being cranky, he was dedicated – Showed his commitment as a teacher

(5)

Select the correct option to fill in the blank:

“It was because they were sorry too....” They were sorry for.....(not following the government order / not learning their language)

[1 Marks]

Answer: They were sorry for not learning their language.

Key Points: Old men of the village were sorry-They regretted not going to school more-They were sorry for not learning French-The last French lesson took place because German was ordered to be taught-Their regret shows the importance of learning one's own language.

(6) What is inferred from the expression ‘the country that was theirs no more’?

[1 Marks]

Answer: The expression ‘the country that was theirs no more’ implies that the people of Alsace and Lorraine had lost their land and freedom because the control of their region had been taken away by Germany. This shows their sorrow and loss as their native country was no longer under their own rule.

Key Points: loss of Alsace and Lorraine by French people - region taken over by Germany - feeling of sorrow and loss - native land no longer under their control

Section C

Question 9.

“One of these days you're going to talk yourself into a load of trouble;” her father said aggressively. What do you learn about Sophie's father's from these lines ? (Going Places)

[2 Marks]

Answer: From the line, “One of these days you're going to talk yourself into a load of trouble,” Sophie's father comes across as strict and concerned. He seems to be a practical man who does not approve of Sophie's ideas that might seem unrealistic or risky to him. His aggressive tone shows that he is worried that Sophie's behavior or words might bring her problems. Overall, he is portrayed as a stern and cautious person, who wants Sophie to be sensible and careful about what she says and does.

Question 10.

'A thing of beauty is a joy forever. Explain with reference to the poem.

(A Thing of Beauty)

[2 Marks]

Answer: The phrase 'A thing of beauty is a joy forever' from the poem means that beautiful things provide lasting happiness and pleasure. According to the poem, beauty is not temporary; instead, its charm and delightful qualities increase over time. Beautiful things are worth treasuring because they continuously uplift our spirits and bring joy, even in times of suffering or trouble. The poem lists various things of beauty like the flowering trees, the sun, the moon, and the peaceful natural world, which soothe human minds and refresh them. Beauty acts as a source of comfort and inspiration, giving eternal joy and making life worthwhile. Hence, beautiful things play an essential role in human life, providing joy that never fades away.

Question 11. How did Franz plan to turn the commotion in the classroom to his favour?

[2 Marks]

Answer: Franz planned to use the usual commotion in the classroom to his advantage by sneaking in late without being noticed and sitting at his desk quietly. He counted on the noise and activity to distract M. Hamel and the other students, allowing him to enter unobserved. However, on this particular day, everything was unusually quiet and still, like on a Sunday morning. This silence surprised Franz because his plan to enter unnoticed failed, as all the students were already seated and M. Hamel was walking around the classroom with his ruler. This sudden quiet meant Franz had to open the door and enter before everyone, making it impossible to use the commotion to hide his late arrival.

Question 12.

How do the expressions 'polished traffic' and a stand that 'pathetically pled' depict the contrasting worlds that co-exist in the poem 'A Roadside Stand'?

[2 Marks]

Answer: In the poem 'A Roadside Stand' by Robert Frost, the expressions 'polished traffic' and a stand that 'pathetically pled' symbolize two contrasting worlds existing side by side. 'Polished traffic' refers to the affluent, busy people driving fast along the road, representing wealth, modernization, and indifference. In contrast, the 'stand that pathetically pled' shows the poor rural people who have set up a modest stand by the roadside, desperately hoping for some help or interaction. The word 'pathetically' conveys their helplessness and emotional appeal, emphasizing their deprivation and struggle. These expressions highlight the stark contrast between the privileged and the impoverished, the busy passersby and the desperate vendors, making us aware of social inequalities present in the society.

Question 13.

'What I want should not be confused'. What clarification does Pablo Neruda give to his readers ? (Keeping Quiet)

[2 Marks]

Answer: In the poem 'Keeping Quiet', Pablo Neruda clarifies that his call for silence and introspection should not be confused with passivity or inactivity. He wants people to pause for a moment to reflect on their actions and understand the need for peace and mutual understanding among human beings. Neruda emphasizes quiet introspection as a way to realize the importance of harmony on Earth and urges everyone to be still and contemplate, which can help prevent conflicts and promote peace.

Question 14.

'But the game he is watching so intently is out of his reach.'

What are the factors that have made their game inaccessible to Saheb ?

(Lost Spring)

[2 Marks]

Answer: Saheb, the young boy in the story "Lost Spring," watches the tennis game with great interest but cannot actually participate in it. The main factors that make the game inaccessible to Saheb are his socio-economic background and the harsh realities of his life. Unlike the players who belong to a more privileged class, dressed in white and playing in a proper club, Saheb comes from a slum and wears worn-out clothes. He has to work in a tea stall to earn a living, which leaves him no time or means to play or access such recreational facilities. The fenced gate and the social divide symbolize the boundary between Saheb's deprived world and the privileged lives of those playing tennis. Therefore, the factors such as poverty, social inequality, and lack of opportunities make the game out of his reach.

Question 15. What is so ironical about Sam reaching the third level?

[2 Marks]

Answer: The irony in Sam reaching the third level of Grand Central Station lies in the fact that while the third level is supposed to be a portal to a simpler, happier past—specifically the year 1894—Sam actually finds himself in a constructed fantasy or mental escape from reality. The third level does not exist physically, but is a psychological refuge that represents Sam's desire to flee from the complexities and worries of the modern world. It is ironic because instead of moving forward or facing reality, Sam seeks comfort in an imaginary past which never really existed as a travel option. Thus, the story shows the conflict between reality and fantasy, and highlights the human tendency to escape to an idealized past when life becomes difficult.

Question 16. What image of the Tiger King is revealed in the diamond ring episode?

[2 Marks]

Answer: In the diamond ring episode of the story 'The Tiger King,' the image of the Tiger King revealed is one of a proud, authoritative, and somewhat arrogant ruler. He is shown to be self-important and obsessed with his royal power and status. His extravagant possession of the diamond ring symbolizes his desire to showcase his wealth and authority. However, this episode also exposes his foolishness and vulnerability as his obsession with riches and status ultimately leads to his downfall. It reveals the Tiger King as a tragic figure, blinded by arrogance and greed.

Question 17.

"In that short time, we've managed to create quite a rukus." What does Tishani Doshi refer to by 'rukus' ?

[2 Marks]

Answer: In the given context, Tishani Doshi uses the word 'rukus' to refer to the uproar or disturbance caused by human activities in a short span of time. This 'ruckus' symbolizes the significant and often disruptive impact humans have made on nature. It includes building villages, towns, and cities, which has led to an upheaval in the natural environment. The term 'rukus' highlights how human dominance and their rapid development have created a disorderly uproar in the balance of nature, emphasizing the theme of environmental disruption.

Section D

Question 18.

Draft an invitation card on behalf of the Principal of J.B. Bhatia Public School for the launch of 'Yoga for Life' programme in the school. Mention a compelling highlight of the programme along with other necessary details.

[4 Marks]

Answer:

J.B. Bhatia Public School

Invitation Card

On behalf of the Principal of J.B. Bhatia Public School, we cordially invite you to the launch of the "*Yoga for Life*" programme aimed at promoting physical and mental

well-being among students. This programme emphasizes the importance of daily yoga practice as a way to maintain good health, reduce stress, and enhance concentration.

Date: 20th July 2024

Time: 10:00 AM

Venue: School Auditorium

We look forward to your gracious presence to inspire our students to embrace yoga as a way of life.

Warm regards,

On behalf of the Principal,

J.B. Bhatia Public School

Section E

Question 19. Your school is organizing a road safety awareness workshop for students of class IX – XII. As the head boy of your school, draft a notice informing the students about the workshop. Include other necessary details. You are Ashna/Ashish. Put your notice in a box.

[4 Marks]

Answer:

ABC School Notice Board

Date: 5 June 2024

NOTICE

All students of classes IX to XII are hereby informed that a **Road Safety Awareness Workshop** will be organized on **10 June 2024** in the school auditorium from **10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon**. The workshop aims to educate students on essential road safety

rules and precautions to be followed while on the road.

All students are advised to attend the workshop without fail as it will help promote safety awareness and prevent accidents. Kindly be seated by 9:45 a.m.

Venue: School Auditorium

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

By order,

Ashish

Head Boy

Question 20. Your school is organizing an Inter-House Science Model-Making Competition. As President of the Science Club, draft a notice to inform all House members from IX – XII about the competition and specify the number of registrations invited per house. Include other necessary details. You are Mitali/Mukesh. Put your notice in a box.

[4 Marks]

Answer:

SCIENCE CLUB NOTICE

Date: 20 June 2024

All House members of classes IX to XII are hereby informed that an Inter-House Science Model-Making Competition will be organized on 1st July 2024 in the school auditorium from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Each house is invited to register a maximum of 4 participants for the competition. Participants are expected to bring their own materials and present innovative models based on any scientific concept. Interested students must register their names with the Science Club by 27th June 2024. This is a great opportunity to showcase your creativity and scientific skills.

For further details, contact the Science Club President, Mitali.

Section F

Question 21.

You are Suraj, reporter of The Times of India. You are sent to cover the Mango Festival organized at the farmer's market.

Write a comprehensive report detailing the activities at the festival. Include descriptions of the events, participation details, and the overall impact of these activities on the local community.

You may organize your report by following –

Who – What – When – Why – How.

[5 Marks]

Answer: The Times of India Date: 25 April 2024 Reporter: Suraj Mango Festival at the Farmer's Market Who: The Mango Festival was organized by the local farmer's association with the participation of mango growers, local residents, and visitors from surrounding areas. What: The festival showcased a wide variety of mangoes including Alphonso, Dasher, Langra, and Banganapalli. Activities included mango tasting sessions, contests for the best mango, traditional dance performances, and workshops on mango cultivation techniques. Stalls sold mango-based products like jams, pickles, and juices. When: The festival was held on the 22nd and 23rd of April, 2024. Why: The event aimed to promote local mango growers, boost awareness about the significance of mango farming, and encourage the consumption of locally produced mango varieties. How: The farmers' market was transformed into a vibrant hub with colorful decorations and themed stalls. Local authorities supported the event by providing space and organizing security. Visitors enthusiastically participated in the contests and tasting sessions, while workshops educated farmers and visitors about best agricultural practices. Overall Impact: The Mango Festival successfully brought together the community, increased the visibility of local mango growers, and contributed to the local economy. It also fostered a sense of pride among the farmers and motivated more youth to take an interest in agriculture. The event highlighted the cultural and economic importance of mango farming to the region.

Section G

Question 22.

Write an article on the commercialisation of festivals, analyzing the reasons for commercialisation and its impact on the younger generation. You may use some of the given cues along with your own ideas. You are Vinita Yadav of XII B.

- - impact of globalization on celebration of festivals.
- - sanctity & essence of festivals.
- - role of Media in commercializing festivals.
- - suggest ways in which individuals and communities can work together to preserve tradition and culture in the celebration of festivals.

[5 Marks]

Answer:

Commercialisation of Festivals

Festivals have always been an integral part of our culture, symbolizing tradition, spirituality, and social bonding. However, in recent years, the commercialisation of festivals has become increasingly evident. Globalization has played a significant role in this transformation by promoting consumerism and making festive celebrations more market-driven. Festivals are now often seen as opportunities for businesses to increase sales through advertisements, sales, and promotions.

The sanctity and essence of festivals tend to be overshadowed by the extravagance of decorations, gifts, and parties fueled by media and advertisements. The media, including social media platforms, often highlight the glamorous side of festivals rather than their cultural or religious significance. This has led to the younger generation perceiving festivals more as occasions for material enjoyment rather than spiritual or cultural observance.

Such commercialisation affects the younger generation by shifting their focus from the true values of festivals to superficial celebrations. It promotes excessive spending and sometimes leads to ignoring environmental and social responsibilities.

To preserve the tradition and culture of festivals, individuals and communities must emphasize the importance of the original meanings and practices of festivals. Schools and community organizations can organize events that highlight cultural heritage and discourage wastage. Families should encourage simpler celebrations focused on togetherness and reflection rather than materialism. Media should also be encouraged to promote awareness about the cultural significance of festivals rather than just their commercial aspects.

In conclusion, while commercialisation may bring economic benefits, it is crucial to balance it with preserving the essence and sanctity of festivals for sustainable cultural heritage.

Vinita Yadav
Class XII B

Section H

Question 23.

'Where there is a will, there is a way.' The above saying aptly describes the character of Douglas from 'Deep Water' and Mukesh from 'Lost Spring'. Compare and contrast their characters in terms of their courage, determination, and the pursuit of their goals.

[5 Marks]

Answer: The saying 'Where there is a will, there is a way' perfectly captures the spirit of both Douglas, from 'Deep Water', and Mukesh, from 'Lost Spring'. Douglas was terrified of water, almost drowning as a child. However, his courage and determination helped him overcome this fear. Despite the trauma, Douglas was determined to conquer water and learned to swim, displaying an iron will and mental toughness. Similarly, Mukesh represents the courage and perseverance in the face of socioeconomic hardships. Despite being a child labourer in hazardous conditions, Mukesh dreams of a better future and education, showing his determination to escape poverty. While Douglas's challenge was internal – conquering fear – Mukesh's battle was external – fighting against circumstances. Both characters, however, embody courage and relentless pursuit of their goals. Douglas's determination to overcome fear allowed him to master swimming, while Mukesh's iron will pushed him to strive for education amidst adversity. Their stories inspire us to realize that with willpower and determination, obstacles can be overcome, and goals can be achieved, no matter how difficult the situation.

Question 24. How did Tishani Doshi's visit to Antarctica as part of the Students on Ice Programme make her realise the importance of preserving the Earth? (Journey to the End of the Earth)

[5 Marks]

Answer: Tishani Doshi's visit to Antarctica with the Students on Ice Programme deeply transformed her understanding of the Earth's fragile environment. Antarctica, often seen as a remote and frozen wilderness, is actually a vital indicator of the planet's health. During her two-week stay with idealistic teenagers committed to saving the world, she observed firsthand the stark contrast between the pristine beauty of this icy continent and the growing threats posed by climate change. The experience made her realize that the future of humankind depends on how we care for and preserve our planet. The melting

ice, changing ecosystems, and vulnerability of this region highlight the urgent need to respect and protect Earth's environment. The programme's goal is clearly to educate and inspire young learners to develop a new understanding and respect for our planet. Doshi's journey shows that by witnessing nature's wonders and its precarious state, people can become more aware and motivated to act responsibly towards environmental conservation. Ultimately, her Antarctic expedition underscored the message that preserving the Earth is essential for the survival of future generations.

Question 25.

Kamala Das in 'Keeping Quiet' and Keats in 'A Thing of Beauty' depict nature as a source of inspiration and strength to man. Analyse both the poems in terms of the above perspective.

[5 Marks]

Answer:

Both Kamala Das in 'Keeping Quiet' and John Keats in 'A Thing of Beauty' explore the theme of nature as a powerful source of inspiration and strength for human beings, albeit in different ways. In 'Keeping Quiet,' the poem urges people to pause, embrace silence, and reflect on the world. This moment of quietness fosters a deep connection with nature and encourages inner peace, suggesting that nature's calmness can inspire harmony and strength within individuals and society. The poem emphasizes introspection as a way to gain spiritual strength and understanding.

Keats, in 'A Thing of Beauty,' celebrates the timeless beauty of nature, portraying it as a constant source of joy and inspiration. He emphasizes that beautiful things, especially in nature, provide lasting happiness and moral upliftment to the human soul. For Keats, nature is a wellspring of strength that encourages optimism and resilience in the face of life's hardships. His vivid descriptions of nature's loveliness evoke a sense of wonder and admiration, highlighting nature's role in nurturing the human spirit.

While Kamala Das focuses on silence and introspection inspired by nature's tranquility, Keats extols the joyous and uplifting effects of natural beauty. Both poems acknowledge that nature profoundly influences mankind by providing inspiration, peace, and the strength needed to face life's challenges, making nature indispensable to human well-being.

Question 26.

The element of dilemma, between humanity and Patriotism elevates the character of Dr. Sadao in 'The Enemy'. Support your answer with evidence from the text.

[5 Marks]

Answer: In the story 'The Enemy' by Pearl S. Buck, Dr. Sadao experiences a profound dilemma between his duty as a doctor and his loyalty as a patriot. When an injured American soldier, an enemy of Japan during the war, is washed ashore near his home, Dr. Sadao faces the challenging choice of either saving the enemy's life or handing him over to the Japanese army. His character is elevated through this conflict. Despite knowing the soldier is his country's enemy, Dr. Sadao's primary role as a doctor compels him to provide medical help, demonstrating his humanity. This is evident when he risks his safety and reputation by hiding and treating the soldier instead of turning him in. Moreover, his wife Hana supports his decision, showing understanding and compassion. The story highlights the struggle where Dr. Sadao balances his medical ethics and patriotic duties, portraying him as a noble character who values human life above political conflicts. Thus, his dilemma and the choice to save the enemy elevate him morally and deeply humanize him in the eyes of the readers.

Section I

Question 27.

Social literacy is increasingly recognized as a crucial 21st century skill for young individuals. Write a letter to the editor of a local daily discussing the benefits of providing social literacy education to children. Also, suggest effective ways to raise awareness about the importance of this education among parents. You may use some of the given cues along with your own ideas to draft the letter. You are a counsellor, Reena Sharma of 36, M.V. Apartments, Pune.

- - What is social literacy?
- - What is the role of school in imparting social literacy to young students?
- - What are the benefits of social literacy?
- - How is social literacy connected to career advancement?

[5 Marks]

Answer:

Reena Sharma
36, M.V. Apartments,
Pune

16 April 2024

The Editor,
The Pune Times,

Pune.

Subject: Importance of Social Literacy Education for Children

Sir/Madam,

I am writing as a counsellor concerned about the holistic development of young individuals. Social literacy, the ability to understand and interact effectively within society, is becoming an essential 21st-century skill that equips children with empathy, communication skills, and responsible citizenship.

Schools play a vital role in imparting social literacy by incorporating activities that promote teamwork, diversity understanding, and conflict resolution. Such education goes beyond textbooks and fosters essential interpersonal skills.

The benefits of social literacy include improved emotional intelligence, better relationships, and enhanced decision-making abilities. Additionally, socially literate individuals contribute positively to their communities and workplaces.

Moreover, social literacy is closely linked to career advancement. Employers value candidates who can collaborate, communicate well, and adapt to diverse environments, making these skills crucial for professional growth.

To raise awareness among parents, schools and local authorities can organise workshops, awareness campaigns, and parent-teacher meetings focused on the importance of social literacy. Media channels can also spread messages highlighting its benefits for children's overall success.

In conclusion, integrating social literacy education will greatly benefit our children in their personal and professional lives.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,
Reena Sharma

Question 28.

You are Mrs. Savita Manjrekhar, a professor in English. You are invited to be one of the judges for the inter-school debate competition by the Principal of J.M. Public School, Cochin. Write a formal letter expressing your inability to accept the invitation.

[4 Marks]

Answer:

Mrs. Savita Manjrekhar
Professor of English

[Your Address]

Cochin

23rd April 2024

The Principal

J.M. Public School

Cochin

Subject: Regret for inability to accept the invitation as judge

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for your kind invitation to be one of the judges for the upcoming inter-school debate competition at J.M. Public School. I am honored that you thought of me for this important role.

However, I regret to inform you that due to prior commitments, I will be unable to accept the invitation to serve as a judge for the event. I have an unavoidable engagement on the scheduled date which cannot be postponed.

I deeply appreciate your understanding regarding my situation and hope the event will be a great success. I look forward to opportunities to collaborate with your esteemed school in the future.

Thank you once again for considering me. Please convey my best wishes to all the participants and organizers.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Savita Manjrekhar

Section J

Question 29.

You are Ajay of 36, N.J. Colony, Pune. You read the given advertisement and wish to apply for the post advertised. Write this job application along with your bio-data.

[5 Marks]

Answer:

To,
The Manager,
Customer Support Department,
The Hindu,
Pune - 500016.

Date: 1 December 2005

Subject: Application for the post of Customer Support Executive

Dear Sir/Madam,

I, Ajay, residing at 36, N.J. Colony, Pune, would like to apply for the post of Customer Support Executive as advertised in The Hindu dated 15 November 2005. I am confident that my skills and qualifications make me a suitable candidate for this position.

I have completed my graduation and have good communication skills. I am proficient in handling customer queries and possess the ability to work efficiently in a team.

Please find below my bio-data for your kind consideration:

Name: Ajay

Address: 36, N.J. Colony, Pune

Date of Birth: [Insert Date]

Email ID: [Insert Email]

Academic Qualifications: [Insert Qualifications]

Contact Number: [Insert Contact Number]

I have also attached my resume and a passport size photograph as requested.

I look forward to the opportunity to discuss my application further.

Thank you for considering my application.

Yours sincerely,

Ajay
