

English Guide

Class

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Section-A FIRST FLIGHT (Prose)

1. A LETTER TO GOD

EXAM ORIENTED QUESTIONS

Comprehension

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow in one or two lines each :

1. With a satisfied expression he regarded the field of ripe corn with its flowers, draped in a curtain of rain. But suddenly a strong wind began to blow and along with the rain very large hailstones began to fall. These truly did resemble new silver coins. The boys, exposing themselves to the rain, ran out to collect the frozen pearls.

“It’s really getting bad now,” exclaimed the man. “I hope it passes quickly.” It did not pass quickly. For an hour the hail rained on the house, the garden, the hillside, the cornfield, on the whole valley. The field was white, as if covered with salt.

Question :

Questions :

- (i) Why did Lencho look satisfied?
- (ii) What happened all at once?
- (iii) What did Lencho hope for?
- (iv) Find out a word in the passage which means the same as “to look like.”

Answer :

- (i) Lencho looked satisfied because his ripe corn had a shower.
- (ii) All at once a strong wind blew and very large hailstorm began to fall.
- (iii) Lencho hoped that the hailstorm would pass quickly.
- (iv) As a result of the hailstorm the corn crop was completely destroyed.

2. Never in his career as a postman had he known that address. The postmaster—a fat, amiable fellow—also broke out laughing, but almost immediately he turned serious and, tapping the letter on his desk, commented, “What faith! I wish

I had the faith of the man who wrote this letter. Starting up a correspondence with God!”

Questions :

- (i) Whose address is being talked about in the opening sentence?
- (ii) The postmaster laughed at first and then turned serious. What made him feel serious?
- (iii) What kind of a fellow was the postmaster?
- (iv) What do we know about the writer's trait, from this passage?

Answer :

- (i) The address of God.
- (ii) The postmaster became serious on seeing Lencho's indomitable faith in God.
- (iii) The postmaster was a fat and amiable fellow. He was charitable too.
- (iv) We understand that he has infinite faith in God.

3. The moment the letter fell into the mailbox the postmaster went to open it. It said : “God : Of the money that I asked for, only seventy pesos reached me. Send me the rest, since I need it very much. But don’t send it to me through the mail because the post office employees are a bunch of crooks Lencho.”

Questions :

- (i) What does Lencho mean by the rest?
- (ii) What was in Lencho’s mind when he was writing the letter?
- (iii) Find out a word from the passage which is the opposite of honest.
- (iv) Who are denoted a bunch of crooks?

Answer :

- (i) By the rest Lencho meant that the thirty pesos which were yet to be received.
 - (ii) Lencho thought that only God could help him in that hour of need.
 - (iii) The opposite of honest is crook.
 - (iv) The post office employees are denoted a bunch of crooks..
4. “....Send me the rest, since I need it very much. But don't send it to me through

the mail because the post office employees are a bunch of crooks.”

Questions :

- (i) Whose words are these and to whom are they addressed?
- (ii) What does the writer need very much and why?
- (iii) Why does the writer call post office employees a bunch of crooks?
- (iv) What is ironical about the statement a *bunch of crooks*?

Answer :

- (i) These are Lencho's words addressed to God.
- (ii) The writer needs money to sow seeds in his fields once again.
- (iii) It is because he thinks that the post office employees have stolen money from the packet sent by God.
- (iv) It is ironical that Lencho unknowingly calls those people a bunch of crooks' who had collected money to help him.

Short Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions :

1. What were Lencho's feelings when the rain/hail had stopped?

Ans. Lencho was filled with sadness after the rain/hail had stopped. His corn was totally destroyed. He said to his sons that they would have no corn that year. But he was hopeful of getting help from God.

2. What did Lencho write in the first letter addressed to God?

Ans. In the first letter, Lencho wrote, "God, if you don't help me, my family and I will go hungry this year. I need a hundred pesos in order to sow my field again and to live until the crop comes, because the hailstorm... ."

3. What did the postmaster do in order to not break Lencho's firm belief/faith in the Almighty/God?

Ans. In order to not break Lencho's firm belief/faith in the Almighty/God, the postmaster decided to answer the letter as God himself. He collected money from his employees, friends and contributed a part of his salary to send to Lencho. He put the money in an envelope and sent it.

4. Why was Lencho angry after opening the letter?

Ans. Lencho was angry after opening the letter because he found only seventy pesos inside the envelope. He had demanded a hundred pesos from God. Instead of getting angry on God, he got angry on the post office employees because he thought them to have misappropriated the money.

5. What did Lencho write in his second letter to God?

Ans. In the second letter to God, Lencho informed that he had only received seventy pesos. He requested God to send him the rest of the money through some other way except the mail because the post office employees were, in his view, dishonest.

Long Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions :

1. Lencho called the post office employees 'a bunch of crooks'. What does it show about his attitude towards men? Was he not a person of humility, appreciation and gratefulness? Elaborate.

Ans. Lencho called the post office employees a bunch of crooks as he thought that they had stolen his money sent by God. He was not correct in his assessment of the employees. It shows that he had a negative attitude towards mankind. He was not a fair judge of man's nature. It seems he was too naive to have the sense of humility, appreciation and gratefulness. He hurt the feelings of the post office employees unintentionally. He was a simple man who had immense faith in God but could not think of any help from men. His anger and attitude towards them shows that he did not have any faith in men. He did not credit the post office employees for their help out of ignorance but he should not have called them a bunch of crooks.

2. Describe Lencho as a Farmer. How did the rain gladden his heart but the heavy hailstones that followed left him a worried man?

Ans. Lencho was a farmer who lived in a house that was on the top of a small hill. From that

height, he could see the river and its fields. Lencho was an 'ox' of a man. He was strong and worked as an animal in his field. The only thing the earth and the fields needed was heavy rain. At least, a shower was very necessary. Lencho's older boys were working in the field. He could see huge mountains of clouds in the north-east. It gladdened his heart. As predicted by him, big drops of rains began to fall. The raindrops were like 'new coins'.

Unfortunately, Lencho's happiness was short lived. Suddenly a strong wind began to blow. Along with the rain, very large hailstones began to fall. Within an hour the house, the garden, the hillside and the fields were covered with a white sheet of hailstones. The leaves, trees and the flowers were destroyed. The hail had left nothing. The corn was totally destroyed. That year they would have no corn. They would survive on the mercy of God. All such dismal prospects worried Lencho.

3. The reader may also be impressed with Lencho's faith as the postmaster was. Can we see such an example in present time? If you were in place of postmaster what would have you done?

Ans. Yes, it is quite obvious that the reader may get impressed to see Lencho's faith in God because it is rare. It is also possible that the thoughts might be different. Now the time is very fast and no one has so simple and pure feelings. It is very difficult to find out such an example at present. The example of the postmaster is also very rare. Now even our close relatives do not help us in our need.

If I were in place of postmaster, I too would have helped Lencho. But my pattern would have been different. I would have called Lencho and handed over the amount to him. I would try to make him realise that God does not help us directly and God helps only those who help themselves.



2. NELSON MANDELA LONG WALK TO FREEDOM

EXAM ORIENTED QUESTIONS

Comprehension

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow in one or two lines each :

1. I was not unmindful of the fact that not so many years before they would not have saluted but arrested me. Finally a chevron of Impala jets left a smoke trail of the black, red, green, blue and gold of the new South African flag.

Questions :

- (i) Who is the author and about whom is he talking?
- (ii) Why is the author being saluted by them?
- (iii) Why would the author have been arrested by them a few years ago?
- (iv) What does the smoke trail of Impala jets symbolise?

Answer

- (i) The author of these lines is Nelson Mandela and he is talking about the highest generals of South African defence forces.
- (ii) He is being saluted because he is the new President of South Africa.
- (iii) The country was ruled by the racial government of the whites and Mandela and other blacks could be arrested and punished even without any reason by them.
- (iv) It symbolises the new national flag of South Africa.

2. The ceremonies took place in the lovely sandstone amphitheatre formed by Union Buildings in Pretoria. For decades this had been the seat of white supremacy, and now it was the site of a rainbow gathering of different colours and nations for the installation of South Africa's first democratic, non-racial government.

Question :

- (i) Which ceremonies are referred to here?
- (ii) What does rainbow gathering mean?

- (iii) Who led the first non-racial government?
- (iv) Where did the ceremonies take place?

Answer :

- (i) Installation of the non-racial government.
- (ii) Gathering of people from different nations.
- (iii) Nelson Mandela.
- (iv) The ceremonies took place in the lonely sandstone amphitheatre formed by the Union Buildings in Pretoria.

3. The policy of apartheid created a deep and lasting wound in my country and my people. All of us will spend many years, if not generations, recovering from that profound hurt. But the decades of oppression and brutality had another, unintended effect and that was that it produced the Oliver Tambos, the Walter Sisulus, the Chief Luthulis, etc., men of such extraordinary courage, wisdom and generosity that their like may never be known again.

Questions :

- (i) Whom does my refer to in the passage?
- (ii) Name two persons of extraordinary courage, wisdom and generosity mentioned in the passage.
- (iii) Trace a word from the passage which means the same as a period of ten years.
- (iv) What created a lasting wound in Nelson's country?

Answer :

- (i) My refers to the narrator *i.e.*, Nelson Mandela.
- (ii) Oliver Tambos and, Luthulis are the two people of extraordinary courage, wisdom and generosity in the passage.
- (iii) The word Decade means a period of ten years.
- (iv) The policy of apartheid.

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Short Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions :

1. How, according to Mandela, had apartheid policy affected South Africa?

Ans. Apartheid policy had affected South Africa deeply. It had created a deep and lasting wound in the country and its people. It will take a long time to heal this wound.

2. What did Mandela think about the oppressor and the oppressed?

Ans. Mandela thought about the oppressor and the oppressed that both are robbed equally. A man who takes away another man's freedom is a prisoner of hatred. In the same way, if his freedom is taken away, they both are without freedom. So both of them must be liberated.

3. What according to Mandela, is 'true-freedom'?

Ans. According to Mandela, true freedom means freedom not to be obstructed in leading a lawful life.

4. How did 'hunger for freedom' change Mandela's life?

Ans. In the beginning of his life, Mandela was not aware about freedom. Later, Mandela found that his freedom had been taken away from

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him. As a student, he wanted freedom only for himself but slowly his own freedom became the greater hunger for the freedom of his people. This changed him completely.

5. What are the 'twin obligations' referred to by Nelson Mandela?

Ans. According to Nelson Mandela, every man has two obligations in life. The first obligation is to his family, to his parents, wife and children. Secondly, he has an obligation to his country, people, and community.

Long Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions :

1. What were Mandela's opinions about the first and last decades of the twentieth century? Why does he say on the day of the inauguration that he was overwhelmed with a sense of history? .

Ans. On the day of the inauguration, the speaker's mind went back to history. He remembered the first decade, when the whites ruled over South Africa and they made a discrimination against the blacks. They built a system of racial discrimination against the blacks. Their behaviour was full of cruelty. They meted out inhuman treatment to the blacks. But now in the last decade of this century, this cruel system was overturned. Now a new system replaced it. It was the first democratic government of South Africa. Now there will be no discrimination on the basis of colour.

That is why, on the day of the inauguration, he was overwhelmed with a sense of history.

2. What does Mandela think about the patriots? Can they be repaid?

Ans. Nelson Mandela thinks that the freedom and democratic government have all come only due to the great sacrifices of thousands of patriots. They were those men who did not care about their lives and died for their people and country. They can't be repaid. He thinks himself the sum of all those who had sacrificed their lives. Now he regrets that he was not able to thank them. According to Mandela, the

policy of apartheid greatly wounded the people. It was hard to recover. It would take much time. These great patriots were Oliver Tambo, Walter Sisulu, Luthuli, Dadoo, Fischer, Sobukwe, etc.

3. What ideas does Mandela have about courage, love and hate?

Ans. According to Mandela, he learnt the meaning of courage from his comrades. They struggled very hard for the freedom of the country. They did not care for their lives. They sacrificed everything for their people and country. They did not break before the brutality of the oppressors. They showed their full strength. So Mandela learned courage from them. To him, courage means not the absence of fear but the victory over it. The brave man is one who conquers fear. No man is born hating another man due to colour or religion. Love comes more naturally to the human heart than hate. According to Mandela, both the oppressor and the oppressed are the prisoners of hatred. No one can become happy after taking away other's freedom.

4. What ideas did we get about freedom, the oppressor and the oppressed from this lesson? How did Nelson Mandela get hunger for freedom?

Ans. According to Mandela, both the oppressor and the oppressed need freedom. Not only the oppressed is without freedom, but also the oppressor. He is the prisoner of hatred, only his level of thinking encourages him to snatch others freedom. It is all due to his narrow mindedness. It is an obvious idea that the oppressed has no freedom. Nelson Mandela had hunger for freedom, when he knew that his freedom had been snatched. His idea for freedom was an illusion. He saw that his brothers and sisters were without freedom. His hunger for freedom encouraged him to join the African National Congress.



3. TWO STORIES ABOUT FLYING

EXAM ORIENTED QUESTIONS

I. His First Flight

Comprehension

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow in one or two lines each :

1. With a loud scream he fell outwards and downwards into space. Then a monstrous terror seized him and his heart stood still. He could hear nothing. But it only lasted a minute. The next moment he felt his wings spread outwards. The wind rushed against his breast feathers, then under his stomach and against his wings.

Questions :

- (i) How did the young seagull learn to fly ?
- (ii) How long did the young seagull's fear last ?
- (iii) Find the word from the passage which means the same as 'terrible'.
- (iv) Who fell outwards and downwards into space ?

Answers :

- (i) The young seagull tried to dive at the fish and fell outwards and downwards into the space. His wings spread and the wind helped him in flying.
 - (ii) The young seagull's fear lasted for a short while—just after a minute the seagull's mother wanted him to follow her.
 - (iii) 'Monstrous' means the same as 'terrible'.
 - (iv) The young seagull.
2. He stepped slowly out to the brink of the ledge, and standing on one leg with the other leg hidden under his wing, he closed one eye, then the other, and pretended to be falling asleep. Still they took no notice of him.

Questions :

- (i) Who is 'they' in the above lines ?
- (ii) What was the seagull afraid of ?
- (iii) Trace a word from the passage which means 'the edge of land before a steep slope'.
- (iv) What did the seagull pretend?

Answers :

- (i) 'They' refer to the seagull's parents.
 - (ii) The seagull was afraid of flying.
 - (iii) 'Brink' means the 'edge of land before a steep slope'.
 - (iv) The young seagull pretended asleep.
3. They were beckoning to him, calling shrilly. He dropped his legs to stand on the green sea. His legs sank into it. He screamed with fright and attempted to rise again flapping his wings. But he was tired and weak with hunger and he could not rise, exhausted by the strange exercise. His feet sank into the green sea, and then his belly touched it and he sank no farther. He was floating on it, and around him his family was screaming, praising him and their beaks were offering him scraps of dog-fish. He had made his first flight.

Questions :

- (i) What was the 'green flooring' on which his brothers and sister had landed ?
- (ii) How was the young seagull's first experience of the sea ?
- (iii) Which word in the passage means the same as 'summoning or luring by silent signal' ?
- (iv) Why was the seagull exhausted ?

Answers :

- (i) The green flooring on which the young seagull's brothers and sisters had landed was the sea.
 - (ii) He thought the sea was hard like land. He tried to stand on it but his legs sunk into it.
 - (iii) The word 'beckoning' means the same as 'summoning or luring by silent signal'.
 - (iv) Due to the strange exercise.
4. He waited a moment in surprise, wondering why she did not come nearer and then maddened by hunger, he dived at the fish. With a loud scream he fell outwards and downwards into space.

Questions :

- (i) Who waited in surprise for whom ?
- (ii) What did he think she would offer to him ?
- (iii) Which word in the passage means the same as 'cry as of fear' ?

(iv) Who is referred as 'He' in the passage ?

Answers :

- (i) The young seagull waited in surprise for his mother.
- (ii) He thought that she would offer him a fish to eat.
- (iii) 'Scream' means the same as 'cry as of fear'.
- (iv) The young seagull.

Short Answer Questions

Answer the following questions :

1. Why could the young seagull not reach his parents without flying?

Ans. He could not reach his parents without flying because on each side of him the edge ended in a sheer fall in a verticle cliff, with the sea below. Then, between him and his parents there was a deep and wide crack in the land.

2. "Still they took no notice of him." What did the seagull do to draw the attention of his family?

Ans. The young seagull stepped slowly out to the extreme edge of the ledge. He was standing on one leg with the other leg hidden under his wing. He closed one eye, then the other and pretended to be asleep and they look no notice of him.

3. What was his family doing on the plateau when seagull failed to draw their attention?

Ans. The two brothers and the sister of the young seagull were half asleep with their heads sunk into their necks. His father was preening the feathers with his beak on his white back. Only his mother, standing on a little mound on the plateau, was looking at him.

4. "But he kept calling plaintively, and after a minute or so he uttered a joyful scream." Why did the young seagull utter a joyful scream?

Ans. The young seagull was desperately hungry. So, he screamed with joy when he saw his mother flying across to him with a piece of fish in her beak. He leaned out eagerly, tapping the rock with his feet trying to get nearer to her.

5. Did the seagull think the sea was like a land? Pick out the words from the text that suggest this.

Ans. Yes, the seagull thought the sea was like a land. He landed on the sea. When his legs sank into it, he screamed with fear and tried to rise again flapping his wings. This clearly indicates that he thought the sea was like a land.

6. Do you sympathise with the seagull? Give reasons.

Ans. Flying is a natural instinct of birds. But the young seagull develops a fright of flight. We sympathise with him because he has to suffer a lot before he gets over his fear of flying. He has to bear the taunts of his family. He has to go without food for twenty-four hours.

Long Answer Questions

Answer the following questions :

1. A young seagull is too afraid to fly. His father and mother threaten him and cajole him to fly. Don't you think that such type of strategy is followed by almost all parents to make their children learn ? Substantiate your answer with examples.

Ans. The young seagull is scared to fly. He is afraid of the vast exposure of the sea beneath him. His parents cajole him to fly but he is too scared to fly. At the same time, he is desperate with hunger. He expects his parents to feed him. But he is left alone without food. They threaten him that he'll die of hunger if he doesn't fly. Then the mother tempts him with a fish within his reach, but not closer to him. He ultimately falls to temptation and dives into the sea and finally succeeds. All the parents should follow such type of strategy to make their children learn. They should not pamper their children by spoon feeding. They should make them independent. Parents strictness in making a child learn a skill shouldn't be taken as a threat. It is in favour of child as without threat, the seagull won't have learnt to fly; he would be starved to death.

2. What role was played by the family of the seagull to train him in the art of flying ?

Ans. To train the young seagull in the art of flying, the entire family helped out. His sister and brothers encouraged him to muster up courage and try to fly. The parents called out in a shrill voice, along with cajoling and scolding him in turn. Then they threatened to let him starve. When all this proved unsuccessful, his mother tempted him by flying close to his ledge with a piece of fish in its mouth. Maddened by hunger, he dived forward to get that piece and fell into space. To save himself he spread his wings and found that he was able to fly. Thus, the entire family helped him in learning the art of flying.

3. How do you find the seagulls in the beginning and at the end of the lesson?

Ans. In the beginning we find the young seagull too frightened and terrified to fly. He had bigger wings as compared to his two brothers and sister. But still he was afraid even to attempt flying. When they flew away, he could gather courage to thrust himself forcibly in space, which made him scared and desperate.

When he was starving for a day, his mother came across to him with a piece of fish in her beak. When she reached near him, she stopped and 'maddened by hunger,' he dived at the fish. But his mother had swooped upward. He found his wings spread and was more confident now. In the end we see him flying till he was tired and dropped himself on the surface of the sea.

4. What methods were used by the seagull's family to help him overcome his fear of flying?

Ans. The young seagull was scared of flying. His brothers and sister had started flying but he could not muster courage to do so. His parents scolded him shrilly and threatened to let him starve on the ledge unless he flew away. When his family left him, he felt the pangs of hunger. Next day, when he saw his mother with a piece of fish in her beak, he begged her for food. She flew across to him, but halted when the piece of fish in her beak was just within reach of the young seagull. The young

seagull dived at the fish, but now her mother swooped upwards. Gradually his fear of flying was over and he enjoyed it now.

II. The Black Aeroplane

Comprehension

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow in one or two lines each :

1. **The moon was coming up in the east, behind me, and stars were shining in the clear sky above me. There wasn't a cloud in the sky. I was happy to be alone high up above the sleeping countryside. I was flying my old Dakota aeroplane over France back to England. I was dreaming of my holiday and looking forward to being with my family. I looked at my watch; one thirty in the morning. 'I should call Paris Control soon,' I thought.**

Questions :

- (i) What made the pilot happy?
- (ii) Which words indicate that the weather was fine ?
- (iii) What was the purpose behind calling Paris Control ?
- (iv) Which words means the same as 'aircraft' ?

Answers :

- (i) The thought of coming holiday and meeting with his family made the pilot happy.
- (ii) Rising moon, cloudless sky.
- (iii) To know where his aeroplane was and direction of the route.
- (iv) Dakota aeroplane.

2. **Inside the clouds, everything was suddenly black. It was impossible to see anything outside the aeroplane. The old aeroplane jumped and twisted in the air. I looked at the compass. I could not believe my eyes : the compass was turning round and round and round. It was dead. It would not work!**

Questions :

- (i) Why could the writer not see anything outside the aeroplane ?

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- (ii) Why was the aeroplane twisting in the air ?
- (iii) Find out a word from the passage which means the same as turned and curved in different direction.
- (iv) Why could the writer not believe his eyes?

Answers :

- (i) The writer could not see anything outside the aeroplane because it was dark outside due to dark clouds.
- (ii) The aeroplane was twisting in the air as it was a stormy night.
- (iii) 'Twisted' means 'turned and curved in different directions.'
- (iv) Because the compass was turning round and round.

3. Then, in the black clouds quite near me, I saw another aeroplane. It had no lights on its wings, but I could see it flying next to me through the storm. I could see the pilot's face-turned towards me. It was very glad to see another person. He lifted one hand and waved.

**"Follow me," he was saying, "Follow me."
"He knows that I am lost," I thought,
"He's trying to help me."**

Questions :

- (i) What did he see in the black clouds ?
- (ii) What was strange about the second plane ?
- (iii) Pick out the word from the passage which is opposite of 'farther'.
- (iv) What did the writer do ?

Answers :

- (i) He saw another airplane (aeroplane) in the black clouds.
- (ii) The second plane had no lights on its wings but surprisingly, the narrator was able to see the face of the pilot.
- (iii) Near.
- (iv) The writer lifted one hand and waved.

4. They look like black mountains standing in front of me across the sky. I knew I could not fly up and cover them, and I did not have enough fuel to fly around them to the north or south.

Questions :

- (i) What are 'they' here ?
- (ii) Explain the figure of speech used in the above extract.

- (iii) Which word in the passage means the same as 'sufficient' ?
- (iv) Did the writer have enough fuel ?

Answers :

- (i) 'They' are storm clouds.
- (ii) The figure of speech used here is simile. The storm clouds are compared to black mountains using 'like'.
- (iii) 'Enough' means 'sufficient'.
- (iv) No.

Short Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions :

1. Describe the narrator's experience as he flew the aeroplane into the storm. Throw a light on his feelings and emotions at that time.

Ans. The narrator was in a hurry to reach England although he had little fuel. He felt home sick and missed his home. So, he took the risk to fly on low fuel. Suddenly, he lost contact with Paris due to cloudy storm. Just then a black aeroplane appeared. He was helped by the mysterious pilot and was able to land safely.

2. How did the author come out safely from the black clouds ?

Ans. The author took the risk of flying through the black clouds. He couldn't see anything. The aeroplane jumped and twisted up every now and then. All his instruments had stopped working. Suddenly, he saw another plane with no lights on its wings. The other pilot gestured him to follow his plane and guided him till they had landed safely out of the clouds.

3. Why was the writer happy when he decided to fly in the night?

Ans. The writer was very happy when he decided to fly that night because he was going home to his family to enjoy his holiday. When he started, everything seemed to be perfect. The sky was clear, no clouds could be seen and the stars were shining. It all made it an easy task for the writer to fly that night over the sleeping countryside of Paris. His assumption of everything being in place made him happy.

4. **The pilot wanted to thank another pilot after his safe landing. Why? What values of the writer are reflected from his action?**

Ans. The pilot (writer) of the old Dakota was caught in the storm. He lost his contact with the control room. In this troubling situation, his fuel tank was also empty. He lost all his hopes but suddenly a black strange plane appeared. The pilot of the black plane asked writer to follow him. The writer landed safely. After his safe landing, he wanted to thank the pilot of the Black Plane. This shows his gratitude towards the pilot of the Black Plane. He was thankful to him for saving his life. It shows that the pilot of Dakota had a value of gratefulness in his character.

Long Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions :

1. **Do you agree that the story ‘The Black Aeroplane’ is a mystery? Justify.**

Ans. A pilot was flying in his old Dakota plane. It was very clear and the flight was easy. He was dreaming of holiday with his family. Suddenly he saw black storm clouds in the sky. He had limited fuel so he could neither fly over the clouds nor go back to Paris. He flew straight into the storm clouds. Everything was black there. Instruments of the aeroplane stopped working. Suddenly he could see another black aeroplane. The pilot of the aeroplane guided him through the black clouds. He came out of the clouds and could see the light of the runway.

The pilot of the Dakota wanted to than the pilot of the black aeroplane and went to the control room. But nobody had seen that black aeroplane. It was really a mystery.

2. **Have you ever been alone or away from home during a thunderstorm? Narrate your experience in a paragraph.**

Ans. It is a recent incident of my childhood when I was around 6 years old. In the eve of Diwali, I was in the field with my grandmother, it was raining heavily and wind started blowing in a manner that tall trees were falling down and everything was moving in the sky, and my

grandmother and I stayed under a mango tree which was very old. It was a very fearful evening. After some time, we had started walking towards home because it was going near by a river that was flowing in a very fast manner and big waves were there. There were black clouds and big things like trees, buffalo, ox, dogs were flying and falling down and we have to pass that river but it was looking impossible to me as everything corps, homes was destroyed. It had stopped after two days.

3. **How did the narrator get out of the storm in the night to land safely?**

Ans. The narrator was flying his old Dakota aeroplane when he saw the black clouds. He was lost in the storm. Suddenly, he saw a black aeroplane by his side, which had no lights on its wings.

The pilot instructed the narrator to follow as he had lost the way. He obeyed him like a child. He was very happy to follow him. After some time, the pilot of another plane started to land. The narrator followed him blindly through the storm and came out of the clouds. He saw the lights of the runway and landed safely.

After his safe landing, he wanted to thank the pilot of the black plane. This shows his gratitude towards the pilot of the black plane. He was thankful to him for saving his life. It shows that the pilot of Dakota had a value of gratefulness in his character.

□

4. FROM THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK

EXAM ORIENTED QUESTIONS

Comprehension

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow in one or two lines each :

1. **Our entire class is quaking in its boots. The reason, of course, is the forthcoming meeting in which the**

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teachers decide who'll be kept back. Half the class is making bets.

Questions :

- (i) What does 'quaking in its boots' imply?
- (ii) Why was the entire class quaking in its boots?
- (iii) What were they betting for?
- (iv) What opinion did Anne have about her classmates?

Answers :

- (i) Shaking with fear and nervousness.
- (ii) There was going to be a meeting of all the teachers to decide whom to promote to the next form and who to detain in the same class.
- (iii) They were betting for — who would be promoted to the next class.
- (iv) She thought girls were better in studies than the boys. She thought most of them were dummies.

2. To enhance the image of this long-awaited friend in my imagination, I don't want to jot down the facts in this diary the way most people would do, but I want the diary to be my friend, and I'm going to call this friend 'Kitty'.

Since no one would understand a word of my stories to Kitty if I were to plunge right in, I'd better provide a brief sketch of my life, much as I dislike doing so.

Questions :

- (i) Why does Anne call 'her' a long-awaited friend?
- (ii) How does she want to begin her diary?
- (iii) Find out a word from the extract which means the same as 'to increase to improve'.
- (iv) Who was Anne's true friend?

Answers :

- (i) Anne called her so because she was waiting since long to have a friend in which she could confide in. Kitty her diary served her purpose.
- (ii) She wanted to begin her diary by giving an introduction.
- (iii) 'To enhance' means 'to increase to improve'.
- (iv) The diary.

3. I wrote the three pages Mr Keesing had assigned me and was satisfied. I argued

that talking is a student's trait and that I would do my best to keep it under control, but I would never be able to cure myself of the habit since my mother talked as much as I did if not more, and that there's not much you can do about inherited traits.

Questions :

- (i) Which fact shows that the narrator was intelligent?
- (ii) Which trait of students did she mention in her essay?
- (iii) Why did she say that she could never be able to cure herself of the habit of talking?
- (iv) How did Anne justify her being a chatterbox in her essay?

Answers :

- (i) She came out with convincing arguments in support of her habit of talking.
- (ii) The trait of talking.
- (iii) This was because she inherited it from her mother and it was difficult to cure inherited habits.
- (iv) By explaining that it is inherited to her mother who was also very talkative and no body could do anything about their inherited traits.

Short Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions :

1. In what way did Anne's diary become the most widely read books?

Ans. The diary of Anne provides a close examination of her daily life. Her original work was in Dutch language. Then there came several films, television and theatrical production of her diary.

2. Why did Anne feel like writing?

Ans. Anne had no real friend. Even she had a greater need to get all kinds of things off her chest. So she felt like writing. Though she had a whim that none would take interest in her views because of her small age.

3. What shows that Anne was deeply in love with her grandmother?

Ans. Anne loved her grandmother from the core of her heart. She died in January 1942, but Anne still went on loving her. When the

birthday of Anne was being celebrated in 1942, a special candle was lit for her.

4. Why was Anne's entire class quaking in the boots?

Ans. Anne's entire class was shaking with fear and nervousness because of the forthcoming teacher's meeting. The teachers had to decide who would move up to the next grade and who would be kept back or not promoted.

5. Why was Anne in tears when she left the Montessori school?

Ans. Anne studied at the Montessori school. She stayed there till she was in the sixth form. She was very much attached to her teacher and headmistress Mrs Kuperus. At the end of the year they were both in tears as they bid 'a heartbreaking farewell'.

6. Where did Anne stay before going to Holland?

Ans. Anne's father emigrated to Holland in 1933 and her mother went with him in September. Anne and her sister did not go with their parents. They were sent to Aachen to stay with their grandmother.

7. Anne was not alone in this world. How?

Ans. Anne was not alone in this world. She had loving parents and a sixteen year old sister. She had a deep intimacy with thirty people. She could call them friends. She had a family, loving aunts and a sweet home.

Long Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions :

1. "Paper has more patience than people." Elucidate.

Ans. Anne Frank felt lonely in the world. She has loving parents, an elder sister and a number of friends. She could talk to them about common everyday matters. But she could not express her inner feelings to them. She wanted a patient listener with a sympathetic heart. But she found that people had no patience to listen to her. She could not relieve that feelings of her heart to anyone. Anne wanted to lighten the burden of ideas in her heart. So she decided to maintain a diary. A diary is not a human being. It has a lot more patience than

man. One can express one's thoughts freely. The diary does not get bored. It is a true friend. It never rejects the offer of friendship. That is why Anne Frank says that paper has more patience than people.

2. How did Anne respond to the punishment by Mr Keesing ? What light does it throw on her nature ?

Ans. When Mr Keesing punished Anne for her talkativeness again and again and asked her to write essay, one after the other, she composed a poem on "The incorrigible Chatterbox" and gave a message through it to the teacher. The teacher got so impressed by her little poem than he decided not to punish her. It shows that she was capable of writing good essays and poems and to win the heart of Mr. Keesing and make him realize his mistake. It also reflects her fearlessness, critical thinking, humility and unbiased approach as well as her creativity and humorous approach to deal with her strict teacher.

3. What do you know about Mr Keesing? How did he punish Anne?

Ans. Mr Keesing was an old-fashioned maths teacher. Anne talked too much during Mr Keesing's class and this annoyed him. He gave her several warnings but that did not keep Anne away, from talking in the class. So Mr Keesing had to punish her time and again. Mr Keesing assigned her some extra homework as a punishment for talking in the class.

He asked her to write an essay on the subject 'A Chatterbox'. On the second occasion, she was asked to write an essay, on the subject 'An Incorrigible Chatterbox'. On the third occasion, Mr Keesing assigned her a more difficult topic. It was "Quack, Quack, Quack, Said Mistress Chatterbox".

Mr Keesing was trying to play a joke on her when he asked her to write an essay entitled "Quack, Quack, Quack, Said Mistress Chatterbox" so she decided to play a joke on Mr Keesing himself. She had nearly

exhausted her ingenuity on the topic of chatterboxes. Her friend Sanne suggested her to write the essay in a poetic form.

She wrote about a mother duck and a father swan with three baby ducklings who were bitten to death by father because they quacked too much. Mr Keesing took the poem in the right way and understood the joke. □

5. GLIMPSES OF INDIA

EXAM ORIENTED QUESTIONS

I. A Baker from Goa

Comprehension

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow in one or two lines each :

1. We kids would be pushed aside with a mild rebuke and the loaves would be delivered to the servant. But we would not give up. We would climb a bench or the parapet and peep into the basket, somehow. I can still recall the typical fragrance of those loaves. Loaves for the elders and the bangles for the children.

Questions :

- (i) Who are 'we' in the extract?
- (ii) Why were the children pushed aside?
- (iii) Which word/phrase in the extract means the same as 'an expression of disapproval/a scolding'?
- (iv) What was there in the basket?

Answer :

- (i) 'We' in the extract refers to the narrator and his friends.
- (ii) The kids were pushed aside so that the breads can be delivered to the servants.
- (iii) The word 'rebuke' from the extract means 'an expression of disapproval a scolding.'
- (iv) There were some loaves for the elders and some bangles for the children.

2. The baker usually collected his bills at the end of the month. Monthly accounts used to be recorded on some wall in pencil. Baking was indeed a profitable profession in the old days. The baker and his family never starved. He, his family

and his servants always looked happy and prosperous. Their plump physique was an open testimony to this. Even today any person with a jackfruit-like physical appearance is easily compared to a baker.

Questions :

- (i) Where did the baker record his accounts?
- (ii) Why did the baker and his family never starve?
- (iii) Which work in the extract is a synonym of 'build'?
- (iv) How can a baker be identified in Goa?

Answer :

- (i) The baker recorded his accounts on some wall in pencil.
- (ii) The baker and his family never starved because baking was a profitable profession.
- (iii) 'Physique' word from the extract is the synonym of 'build'.
- (iv) Any person with a Jackfruit-like physical appearance is easily identified to a baker as their pump physique is an open testimony of their happiness and prosperity.

3. Our elders are often heard reminiscing nostalgically about those good old Portuguese days, the Portuguese and their famous loaves of bread. Those eaters of loaves might have vanished but the makers are still there. We still have amongst us the mixers, the moulders and those who bake the loaves.

Questions :

- (i) What are the elders nostalgic about ?
- (ii) How can you say that bread-making is still popular in Goa ?
- (iii) What are 'the mixers, the moulders' used for ?
- (iv) Which word in the passage means the same as 'cook' ?

Answer :

- (i) The elders are nostalgic about the good old Portuguese days and their famous loaves of bread.
- (ii) Bread-making is still popular in Goa because the bread makers are still there

and so are their mixers, moulders and furnaces.

(iii) The mixers are used to prepare the dough for the bread and moulders are used to give different shapes to the bread.

(iv) Bake.

Short Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions :

1. Is bread-making still popular in Goa? How do you know?

Ans. Bread-making is still popular in Goa. We can see the mixers, the moulders and those who bake the loaves. Most of their festivals and other occasions will become meaningless without the loaves of the bread. The ladies of the house prepare sandwiches on the occasion of their daughter's engagement.

2. When would the baker come everyday? Why did the children run to meet him?

Ans. The baker would come at least twice a day. The morning was his selling round and he returned after selling them. Children ran to meet and greet him because they needed bread bangles from him. They also got sweet bread of special make.

3. What did the bakers wear—(i) in the Portuguese days? (ii) When the author was young?

Ans. Kabali was a particular dress—a single piece long frock reaching down the knees which the bakers used to wear in old days. Later it was replaced by a shirt and trousers which were longer than the shorts and shorter than the full length.

4. Explain with examples that baking used to be a profitable profession.

Ans. Baking was indeed a profitable profession in the old days. The baker and his family never starved. He, his family and his servants always looked happy and prosperous. Their plump physique was an open testimony to this.

5. How did the baker make his entry?

Ans. The baker made musical entry with the 'jhang, jhang' sound of his specialty made bamboo staff. One hand supported the basket on his

head and the other banged the bamboo on the ground. He would greet the lady of the house and then place the basket on the bamboos.

Long Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions :

1. Describe the pen-portrait of a traditional Goan village baker.

Ans. There is a deep impact of Portuguese culture on Goan life. The baker is also a part of this culture. They are known as paders in Goa. When author was a child, one could see the traditional baker in the village. He used to be friend of children. He visited the house twice a day. Children arose with the sound of thud and jingle of the bamboo in the morning. They would run to greet him. Children were fond of sweet bread and the bread bangles. The ladies of the house bought the bread. Bakers were professional and it was a family business. It was a profitable business and most of the bakers were plump. They had their peculiar traditional dress called Kabai.

2. "Not enough can be said to show how important a baker can be for a village". How were the services of the baker required on various occasions?

OR

Why was the baker's furnace essential in a traditional Goan village?

Ans. A baker is very important and essential for a Goan village. He does not merely represent a profession but a highly admired Portuguese tradition. His breads are essential on each and every occasion. Marriage gifts are meaningless without the sweet bread known as the bol. Cakes and bolinhas are a must for Christmas as well as other festival. He enjoys respect and love of the people. The children consider him their friend, companion and guide. Thus, the presence of the baker's furnace in the village is absolutely necessary.

3. What, according to the author, do the elders of Goa think fondly about the past?

Ans. Rodrigues describes his childhood and old Portuguese days and their famous loaves of bread. The bakers are known pader in Goa. The writer remembers a baker fondly. The baker would come at least twice a day for selling his bread. The jingling thud of his bamboo would wake the children and they would run to meet and greet him. The children longed for his visit for those bread-bangles or sometimes for sweet bread of special make. The baker would greet the lady of the house with 'good morning'. Then he would place his basket on the vertical bamboo. He collected the bill at the end of the month.

4. Baking was considered an important and a profitable profession in a traditional Goan village. Explain.

Ans. In olden days, Goa was very much influenced by the Portuguese. Baking was considered an essential and profitable profession in a traditional Goan village. The Portuguese were famous for preparing the loaves of bread. Baking was the traditional family work. The villages were much fond of the sweet bread known as 'bol'. The marriage gifts were meaningless without it. So the bakers furnaces were the most essential and 'cakes and bolinhas' formed an important item there. At various occasions like Christmas and other festivals the bakers would collect the bill at the end of month. Baking was a profitable profession in olden days.

II. Coorg

Comprehension

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow in one or two lines each :

- 1. The Coorg Regiment is one of the most decorated in the Indian Army, and the first Chief of the Indian Army, General Cariappa was a Coorgi. Even now, Kodavus are the only people in India permitted to carry firearms without a licence.**

Questions :

- (i)** How is the Coorgi regiment decorated?

- (ii)** What does the above information tell us about Coorgis?
- (iii)** Who was the first Coorgi to become the chief of the Indian army?
- (iv)** What is peculiar about their regiment?

Answers :

- (i)** Maximum awards and medals have been bagged by them.
- (ii)** They are full of valour and courage.
- (iii)** General Cariappa was the first Coorgi to become the chief of the Indian army.
- (iv)** Coorg regiment is the most decorated in the Indian army.

- 2. Midway between Mysore and the coastal town of Mangalore sits a piece of heaven that must have drifted from the kingdom of God. This land of rolling hills is inhabited by a proud race of martial men, beautiful women and wild creatures.**

Coorg or Kodagu, the smallest district of Karnataka, is home to evergreen rainforests, spices and coffee plantations. Evergreen rainforests cover thirty per cent of this district.

Questions :

- (i)** What does 'piece of heaven' refer to?
- (ii)** Where is Coorg situated?
- (iii)** What type of people inhabits this land of 'rolling hills'?
- (iv)** How much area of the district is covered by evergreen rainforests?

Answers :

- (i)** Coorg.
- (ii)** Midway between Mysore and the coastal town of Mangalore.
- (iii)** Martial men and beautiful women.
- (iv)** They cover thirty per cent area of the district.

Short Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions :

- 1. What does the writer say about the bravery of the Coorgi people?**

Ans. The writer says that the Coorgi people are brave people. Their tales of bravery are famous. The Coorg regiment is one of the most decorated in the Indian Army. The first

chief of the Indian Army, General Cariappa, was a Coorgi. Even today, the Kodavus are the only people in India who are allowed to carry firearms without a licence.

2. Describe the people and culture of Coorg.

Ans. Coorg is inhabited by a proud race of martial men, beautiful women and wild creatures. Coorgi homes have a tradition of hospitality. There are many tales of valour related to the people of Coorg. The Coorg Regiment is one of the most decorated in the Indian Army. General Cariappa, the first Chief of the Indian Army, was a Coorgi. Kodavus are the only people in India permitted to carry firearms without a licence.

3. Describe the climate, birds and animals of Coorg.

Ans. During the monsoons, Coorg has a lot of rains. It pours enough to keep many tourists away. The best tourist season starts from September and continues till March. The very air of Coorg smells of Coffee. Kingfishers, squirrels, langurs, wild elephants, bees and butterflies abound in the rainforests of Coorg.

Long Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions :

1. Why does the author call Coorg 'a piece of heaven' that must have drifted from the kingdom of God?

Ans. Coorg is among the most beautiful regions of India. The author rightly calls it 'a piece of heaven that must have drifted from the kingdom of God.' This land of rolling hills is also the home of beautiful rain-forests. The rainforests cover more than thirty per cent of Coorg. The evergreen rainforests have a rich flora and fauna the very air of Coorg breathes of fresh coffee. The beautiful sprawling coffee estates are dotted with colonial bungalows. The river Kaveri obtains its water from. The hills and rainforests of Coorg. Kingfishers dive for Mahaseer, a large freshwater fish in these waters. Squirrels and langurs drop partially eaten fruit into the clear water. Elephants enjoy being bathed and scrubbed in the Kaveri by their mahouts. The climb to the Brahmagiri

hills gives you a panoramic view of the entire misty landscape of Coorg. The sixty-four-acre island of Nisargadhama is a little paradise for tourists. So are the temples and Buddhist monks wearing red, ochre and yellow robes. All of them represent the heart and soul of India.

2. Describe the physical and geographical features of Coorg.

Ans. Coorg is a piece of heaven that must have drifted from the Kingdom of God. This is a land of rolling hills inhabited by a proud race of martial men, beautiful women, coffee and wild elephants. Coorg or Kodagu is the smallest district of Karnataka. It is home to evergreen forests, spices and coffee plantation. This beautiful region of rolling hills, rainforests and mist lies between Mysore and the coastal town of Mangalore. Rainforests dominate the physical feature of Coorg. They cover more than thirty per cent of this district. It rains heavily during the monsoons. The most ideal season for the tourists starts in September and ends in March. The river Kaveri obtains its water from the hills and rainforests of Coorg. The region abounds in wild elephants and langurs besides a lot of birds, bees and butterflies. The Brahmagiri hills provide a panoramic view of the entire misty landscape of Coorg. The sixty-four-acre island of Nisargadhama is a little paradise for the tourists.

3. What does the author say about the people of Coorg?

Ans. The writer says that the people of Coorg are independent and brave. They are of Greek or Arabic descent. According to a story, a part of Alexander's army did not return and was settled here. They married among the locals. This culture can be seen in the martial traditions, marriage and religious customs. According to another theory Coorg people originated from the Arabs. It is evident from the long, black coat worn by the people. It is like the kuffia worn by the Arabs and the Kurds. Coorgi homes have tradition of hospitality. They are brave people. Their

tales of bravery are famous. The Coorg Regiment is one of the most decorated in the Indian Army. The first Chief of the Indian Army General Cariappa, was a Coorgi. Even today, the Kodavus are the only people in India who are allowed to carry firearms without a licence.

III. Tea from Assam

Comprehension

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow in one or two lines each :

1. **Pranjol's father slowed down to allow a tractor, pulling a trailer-load of tea leaves, to pass.**

“This is the second-flush or sprouting period, isn't it, Mr Barua?” Rajvir asked.

“It lasts from May to July and yields the best tea”. “You seem to have done your homework before coming” Pranjol's father said in surprise.

“Yes, Mr Barua”, Rajvir admitted. “But I hope to learn much more while I'm here.”

Questions :

- (i) Why did Mr Barua feel surprised ?
- (ii) How did Rajvir want to spend his stay there ?
- (iii) Which word in the extract means 'agreed'?
- (iv) What is the sprouting period of tea?

Answer :

- (i) Mr Barua was surprised to know that Rajvir already knew a lot about the tea gardens of Assam.
 - (ii) Rajvir wanted to spend his time discovering the beauty of Assam. He wanted to learn more about the tea plantations of Assam.
 - (iii) 'Admitted' from the extract means 'agreed'.
 - (iv) The sprouting period or the second-flush of tea lasts from May to July.
2. **“Do you know that over eighty crore cups of tea are drunk every day throughout the world?” Rajvir said.**

“Whew!” exclaimed Pranjol. “Tea really is very popular.”

The train pulled out of the station. Pranjol buried his nose in his detective book again. Rajvir too was an ardent fan of detective stories, but at the moment he was keener on looking at the beautiful scenery.

Questions :

- (i) How do we know that tea is very popular?
- (ii) Rajvir was a great fan of reading detective stories. Why didn't he like to read at that moment?
- (iii) Which word in the extract means the same as 'well-liked'?
- (iv) Where was Rajvir busy when train pulled out of the station?

Answer :

- (i) We know that tea is very popular because eighty crore cups of tea are drunk every day throughout the world.
- (ii) Rajvir didn't like to read a detective story at that moment because he was more interested in looking at the beautiful scenery which passed by as the train moved.
- (iii) 'Popular' from the extract means 'well-liked'.
- (iv) Rajvir was busy in looking at the beautiful scenery outside the train when train pulled out of the station.

3. **“CHAI GARAM... garam chai” a vendor called out in a high pitched voice.**

He came up to their window and asked, “Chai, saab?”

“Give us two cups,” Pranjol said.

They sipped the steaming hot liquid. Almost everyone in their compartment was drinking too.

“Do you know that over eighty crore cups of tea are drunk every day all over the world?” Rajvir said.

Questions :

- (i) Who was speaking in a high pitched voice and for what?
- (ii) What was ordered by Pranjol?
- (iii) What information did Rajvir give?
- (iv) Which word in the passage means the same as chinked?

Answer :

- (i) A tea vendor was speaking in a high pitched voice to attract customers from the train to buy hot tea.

- (ii) Pranjol ordered for two cups of tea.
- (iii) Rajvir told Pranjol that over eight crore cups of tea are drunk every day all over the world.
- (iv) Sipped.

4. It was a magnificent view. Against the backdrop of densely wooded hills a sea of tea bushes stretched as far as the eye could see. Dwarfing the tiny tea plants were tall sturdy shade-trees and amidst the orderly rows of bushes busily moved doll-like figures. In the distance was an ugly building with smoke billowing out of tall chimneys. "Hey, a tea garden!" Rajvir cried excitedly.

Questions :

- (i) What have the tea plantations been compared to?
- (ii) What are the doll like figures referred to here?
- (iii) Why was Rajvir excited?
- (iv) Which word in the passage means the same as 'splendid'?

Answer :

- (i) Tea plantations have been compared to a sea of tea bushes.
- (ii) The doll like figures referred to here are the tea pluckers.
- (iii) Rajvir was excited because he had spotted a tea garden.
- (iv) Magnificent.

Short Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions :

1. What made Rajvir amazed on the way?

Ans. Rajvir found the view outside the train splendid and eye catching with a lot of greenery. It was his first visit to Assam and he was fascinated by the sprawling tea gardens, spreading like the green sea of neatly pruned bushes and found it more interesting to watch, than reading his book on detectives.

2. How did Rajvir describe the view from the train?

Ans. Rajvir described the magnificent view of the landscape from the train window. It was a sea of tea bushes, fleeting against the backdrop of densely wooded hills. At odd intervals, there were tall shade-tree and one could see women

tea-pluckers picking tea leaves, who appeared to be doll like figures.

3. What legends are associated with the origin of tea?

Ans. According to Chinese legend, once a few leaves of the twigs burning under the pot fell into the water and gave a delicious flavour: According to the Indian legend, Bodhidharma cut off his eyelids because he felt sleepy during meditation and threw them on the earth. Ten tea plants grew out of those eyelids. When he boiled them in water and drunk that water, it banished his sleep.

4. How did Rajvir describe, the tea garden at Dhekiabari?

Ans. Rajvir's visit to Dhekiabari, where Pranjol's father worked as a manager, was a novel experience and he found it extremely fascinating. As they proceeded along the gravel road, with neatly pruned sea of tea bushes spreading over acres of land, he saw groups of tea-workers, wearing plastic aprons and baskets of bamboo sticks on their back, picking newly sprouted tea leaves.

5. How are the tea-pluckers different from the other farm labourers?

Ans. Tea pluckers are different from the other farm labourers as the tea pluckers are hired labourers whereas the farm labourers can be hired or can be the owners of the land. Tea pluckers just pluck leaves whereas farm labourers go through the whole process, i.e., from sowing to harvesting.

Long Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions :

1. What landscape did Rajvir notice while sitting in the train?

Ans. Rajvir was fascinated by the scenic beauty of the place. There were vast green tea gardens on both sides of the road. The tall trees at the back of the gardens in the forest on the rolling hills looked beautiful. The women plucking tea leaves looked like dolls. On the way, he saw people drinking tea. He also saw an ugly building with smoke coming out of its chimneys. Rajvir was received by Mrs and

Mr Barua and was taken towards Dhekiabari Tea Estate. On both sides of the gravel road were acres and acres of neatly pruned tea bushes. It was the second sprouting period. Women were wearing plastic aprons and plucking new tea leaves and putting them in the bamboo baskets on their backs.

2. What did Rajvir tell Pranjol about the discovery of tea?

Ans. Rajvir said that no one really knows who discovered tea. He told Pranjol that there were many legends attached to the discovery of tea. According to one story, a Chinese emperor discovered tea by chance. He always boiled water before drinking it. One day a few leaves off the twigs burning under the pot fell into the water. As a result, the boiled water got a delicious flavour. It is said they were tea leaves. According to another Indian legend Bodhidharma, an ancient Buddhist monk, felt sleep during meditations. So he cut off his eyelids. Ten tea plants grew out of the eyelids. The leaves of these plants when put in hot water and drunk banished sleep. It is believed that tea was first drunk in China in 2700 B.C. Words like *chaw* and *chini* are Chinese. Tea came to Europe in the sixteenth century. At first, it was used more as a medicine than as a beverage.

3. What did Rajvir see during his train journey? Why was he more excited than his friend Pranjol?

Ans. Rajvir, a classmate of Pranjol, is visiting Dhekiabari Tea Estate in Assam, for the first time. Actually, he is enjoying the train journey to Assam with his friend Pranjol whose father manages Dhekiabari Tea Estate. The beautiful scenery fascinates Rajvir. It is green, green everywhere. He sees so much greenery for the first time in his life. Now the landscape changes. The paddy fields give way to tea bushes. A sea of tea bushes is stretching as far as eyes can go. The orderly rows of bushes are pruned to the same height. Groups of tea pluckers are carrying bamboo baskets on their backs. They are plucking the newly sprouted leaves. The magnificent view fascinates

Rajvir. However, Pranjol is not so much excited. These views are not new to him. He was born and brought up on a tea plantation. □

6. MIJBIL THE OTHER

EXAM ORIENTED QUESTIONS

Comprehension

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow in one or two lines each :

1. When I casually mentioned this to a friend, he as casually replied that I had better get one in the Tigris marshes, for there they were as common as mosquitoes, and were often tamed by the Arabs. We were going to Basra to the Consulate-General to collect and answer our mail from Europe. At the Consulate-General we found that my friend's mail had arrived but that mine had not.

Questions :

- (i) What was 'they'?
- (ii) Where were they going to get the otter?
- (iii) Find the exact word from the extract which means 'domesticated'.
- (iv) What did the author find at the Consulate-General?

Answers :

- (i) 'They' refers to the otter.
- (ii) They were going to get the otter from Tigris marshes.
- (iii) 'Tamed' from the extract means 'domesticated'.
- (iv) At the Consulate-General, the author found that his mail had not arrived while his friend's mail had arrived.

2. Mijbil, as I called the otter, was, in fact, of a race previously unknown to science, and was at length christened by zoologists *Lutrogale Perspicillata Maxwelli*, or Maxwell's otter. For the first twenty- four hours Mijbil was neither hostile nor friendly; he was simply aloof and indifferent, choosing to sleep on the floor as far from my bed as possible.

Questions :

- (i) Who was Mijbil?
- (ii) How did the otter behave for the first twenty-four hours?
- (iii) Find the exact word from the extract which means 'having no particular interest'.
- (iv) Why is the otter called 'Maxwell's otter'?

Answers :

- (i) Mijbil was the name of the otter brought by the narrator.
- (ii) The otter was indifferent and stayed as far as possible from the narrator for the first twenty four hours.
- (iii) 'Indifferent' from the extract means 'having no particular interest'.
- (iv) The otter was christened by zoologist Maxwell. So, in his honour, it was called Maxwell's otter.

3. I made a body-belt for him and took him on a lead to the bathroom, where for half an hour he went wild with joy in the water, plunging and rolling in it, shooting up and down the length of the bathtub underwater, and making enough slosh and splash for a hippo. This, I was to learn, is a characteristic of otters.

Questions :

- (i) What is a particular characteristic of otter?
- (ii) What did the otter do inside the bathroom?
- (iii) Find the exact word from the extract which means 'moving irregularly with splash sound'.
- (iv) Why did the author make a body-belt for himself?

Answers :

- (i) Playing with water is a particular characteristic of otters.
- (ii) The otter played with water inside the bathroom.
- (iii) 'Slashed' from the extract means 'moving irregularly with splash sound'.
- (iv) The author made a body-belt for himself to take otter on a lead to the bathroom.

4. Very soon Mij would follow me without a lead and come to me when I called his name. He spent most of his time in play. He spent hours shuffling a rubber ball round the room like a four-footed soccer player using all four feet to dribble the

ball, and he could also throw it, with a powerful flick of the neck, to a surprising height and distance.

Questions :

- (i) What was the favourite timepass of Mijbil?
- (ii) What did the otter do when the narrator called his name?
- (iii) Find the exact word from the extract which means 'strike'.
- (iv) What has been referred as a four-footed soccer player?

Answers :

- (i) The favourite timepass of Mijbil was to shuffle the rubber ball using all his four legs.
- (ii) The otter used to follow the narrator when he called his name.
- (iii) 'Dribble' from the extract means 'strike'.
- (iv) The otter has been referred as a four-footed player of soccer.

5. The British airline to London would not fly animals, so I booked a flight to Paris on another airline, and from there to London. The airline insisted that Mij should be packed into a box not more than eighteen inches square, to be carried on the floor at my feet.

Questions :

- (i) Where was Mij being taken?
- (ii) How was Mij being taken?
- (iii) Which word in the extract means the same as 'to demand something forcefully'?
- (iv) What did the airline insist upon?

Answers :

- (i) Mij was being taken to London.
- (ii) Mij was being taken by packing him in a box.
- (iii) The word 'insisted' from the extract means 'to demand something forcefully'.
- (iv) The airline insisted upon the fact that Mij should be packed in a box so that it can be carried.

6. When I returned, there was an appalling spectacle. There was complete silence from the box, but from its airholes and chinks around the lid, blood had trickled and dried. I whipped off the lock and tore open the lid, and Mij,

exhausted and blood spattered, whimpered and caught at my leg.

Questions :

- (i) What was inside the box?
- (ii) What was the condition of the box when the narrator returned?
- (iii) Find the exact word from the extract which means 'quickly took off'.
- (iv) Why did the author open the box?

Answers :

- (i) Mij was lying exhausted and blood spattered inside the box.
- (ii) When the narrator returned, there was complete silence inside the box. Blood was coming out from the airholes and around the lid.
- (iii) 'Whipped off' from the extract means 'quickly took off'.
- (iv) The author opened the box because Mij was caged inside it.

Short Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions :

1. What 'experiment' did Maxwell think Camusfearna would be suitable for?

Ans. Maxwell was staying in a cottage in Camusfearna. There was a lot of water around the cottage. He thought to have an otter as a pet instead of a dog. An otter likes flowing water. So the author thought that Camusfearna would be a suitable spot for that experiment.

2. Why does he go to Basra? How long does he wait there, and why?

Ans. He goes to Basra to the Consulate-General to collect and answer his mail from Europe. His mail did not arrive in time. He cabled to England, and when, three days later, nothing had happened, he tried to telephone. The call had to be booked twenty-four hours in advance. On the first day the line was out of order; on the second day, exchange was closed for a religious holiday. On the third day there was another breakdown. His mail arrived five days later. He had to wait for five days.

3. What happened when Maxwell took Mijbil to the bathroom? What did it do two days after that?

Ans. When Maxwell took Mijbil to the bathroom he went wild with joy in the water, plunging and rolling in it, shooting up and down the length of the bathtub underwater, and making enough slosh and splash for a hippo. Two days after, Mijbil escaped from the bedroom and entered the bathroom. He struggled with the chromium tap till it had a full flow.

4. How was Mij to be transported to England?

Ans. The British airline to London did not permit to fly animals. The author had to book a flight to Paris on another airline. The airline insisted that Mij should be packed into a box not more than eighteen inches square. The author acted accordingly and transported Mij to England.

5. What did Mij do to the box?

Ans. The author put Mij into the box an hour before he started for the airport so that Mij would become accustomed to it and left for a meal. When he came back he found complete silence in the box. He saw blood stains around the airholes. Mij had torn the lining of the box to shreds. He got himself hurt.

6. Why did Maxwell put the otter back in the box? How do you think he felt when he did this?

Ans. Maxwell put the otter back in the box because he was already late for the airport. It was just ten minutes time for the flight, and the airport was five miles distant. He felt bad in doing so. He did not want to keep the miserable otter in the box but there was no other option due to time constraint.

Long Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions :

1. "The airhostess was the very queen of her kind". Do you agree? Comment.

Ans. The airhostess was the very queen of her kind. I fully agree with the author's statement. The chief duty of an airhostess is to make the passengers feel comfortable during the journey. The airhostess on Maxwell's plane does all she can do for him.

That is why Maxwell calls her the very queen of her kind.

She calmly listens to the author, allows him to keep the animal on his knees and tries to catch it when it escapes. In doing so she does not lose her patience. The author also tries to catch the animal and in doing so, he lands himself on a passenger. His face is covered with curry. Once again the airhostess comes to Maxwell's help. Thus we see that the airhostess was really a nice lady/kind lady.

2. What do you know about Mijbil's journey to London?

Ans. The author had to come back to London from Basra. The British Airlines does not allow to fly animals so he had to book his ticket in another airline. The airline authorities insisted the author to pack Mijbil in a box. The author had a box and put Mijbil in it an hour before he started for the airport so that Mijbil would become accustomed to it and left for a hurried meal. When he came back he found Mijbil wounded in the box. He had ten minutes left to catch the flight, so he kept it back to the box.

In the flight, the author told the airhostess about the miserable condition of Mijbil and took her into confidence. She was a considerate lady and suggested that he could keep Mijbil on his knee. The author opened the box. Mijbil was out of the box in a flash and disappeared down the aircraft. The author dived to catch Mijbil and he missed; but he found his mouth covered with curry. The airhostess helped in the search. The author came back to his seat and found Mijbil near his knee.

3. If you were in place of the airhostess and same incidents might have happened with you in the flight, how would you describe your experience?

Ans. If I were in place of the airhostess and the same incidents might have happened with me in the flight, my experience might be the same as of the airhostess. But I would like to say something in this matter. As an airhostess, I would never permit to open the box of the

otter (animal). I would be punctual for my duties. I know that kindness has a unique importance in our life. But duty is above all. I would think about the bad impacts of a free otter in the plane. It might be a great risk for all the passengers. In that condition, my reaction might be different. When the author would ask me to let him open the box, I would make him understand about the risk. In the name of rules and regulations basic values are ignored but people like the airhostess in "Mijbil the Otter" as a ray of hope.

4. What things does Mij do which tell you that he is an intelligent, friendly and fun-loving animal who needs love?

Ans. Mij was an intelligent, friendly and fun-loving animal. When the author received it, for the first twenty- four hours it remained aloof and indifferent but later on he took interest in his surroundings. He became friendly to the author. He enjoyed his bath. One day he disappeared from the bedroom and entered the bathroom where he tried to open the tap.

His intelligence is further revealed when he invented a game of his own of ping- pong ball. Mij discovered that if the ball was placed on the high end of the suitcase, it would rather run down the length of the suitcase. He enjoyed playing with ball and marbles. Mij had developed certain compulsive habits like school children. He used to gallop at full speed on the thirty yards wall of a primary school.



7. MADAM RIDERS THE BUS

EXAM ORIENTED QUESTIONS

Comprehension

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow in one or two lines each :

- 1. But for Valli, standing at the front door was every bit as enjoyable as any of the elaborate games other children played.**

Watching the street gave her many new unusual experiences.

Questions :

- (i) Why did Valli kept on standing at the doorway?
- (ii) How did Valli feel while standing at the doorway?
- (iii) Find a word from the extract which means 'not very common'.
- (iv) How was Valli different from children of her age?

Answer :

- (i) Valli kept on standing at the doorway to watch the happenings on the street outside.
 - (ii) Watching the street gave Valli many new experiences. She felt joyous standing at the doorway.
 - (iii) 'Unusual' from the extract means 'not very common'.
 - (iv) Valli was different from children of her age as she was not interested in playing any elaborate games.
2. **The most fascinating thing of all was the bus that travelled between her village and the nearest town. It passed through her street each hour, once going to the town and once coming back. The sight of the bus, filled each time with a new set of passengers, was a source of unending joy for Valli.**

Questions :

- (i) How many times did the bus pass?
- (ii) What was the source of unending joy for Valli?
- (iii) Find a word from the extract which means 'never ending'.
- (iv) What was the most fascinating thing for Valli?

Answer :

- (i) The bus passed through Valli's street once in an hour.
- (ii) The sight of the bus, filled each time with a new set of passengers, was a source of unending joy for Valli.
- (iii) 'Unending' from the extract means 'never ending'.
- (iv) The most fascinating thing for Valli was watching the bus that travelled between her village and the nearest town.

3. **It was slack time of the day, and there were only six to seven passengers in the bus. They were all looking at Valli and laughing with the conductor. Valli was overcome with shyness. Avoiding everyone's eyes she walked quickly to an empty seat and sat down. It was a new bus, its outside painted a gleaming white with some green stripes along the sides. Inside, the overhead bars shone like silver.**

Questions :

- (i) Why were all the passengers laughing ?
- (ii) Where was Valli going ?
- (iii) Write the adjectival form of 'shyness'.
- (iv) Which word in the passage means the same as 'Shining'.

Answer :

- (i) All the passengers were laughing as they were amused at her remark of being grown up.
 - (ii) She was going on a bus journey, just to fulfil her dream, *i.e.*, to travel to town and come back on the same bus.
 - (iii) 'shy'.
 - (iv) gleaming
4. **Her first journey—what careful, painstaking, elaborate plans she had to make for it! She had thriftily saved whatever stray coins came her way, resisting every temptation to buy peppermints, toys, balloons and the like, and finally she had saved a total of sixty paise. How difficult it had been, particularly that day at the village fair, but she had resolutely stifled a strong desire to ride the merry-go-round, even though she had the money.**

Questions :

- (i) Who does 'her' refer to in the passage ?
- (ii) Where was her first journey made to ?
- (iii) Why had she resisted all temptations ?
- (iv) Which word in the passage means the same as 'Swing'?

Answer :

- (i) 'Her' refers to Valli.
- (ii) Her first journey was till the next town.
- (iii) She had resisted all temptations to save money for a bus ride.

(iv) Merry-go-round.

5. “Don’t you want to have a look at the sights, now that you’re here ?

“All by myself ? Oh, I'd be much too afraid.”

Greatly amused by the girl’s way of speaking, the conductor said, “But you weren’t afraid to come in the bus.”

“Nothing to be afraid of about that,” she answered.

Questions :

- (i) Who is the ‘girl’ mentioned in the passage ?
- (ii) Why didn’t she get off the bus when she reached her destination ?
- (iii) Write the meaning of the word, ‘amused’.
- (iv) Was Valli really afraid ?

Answer :

- (i) The ‘girl’ mentioned in the passage is Valliammai (Valli for short).
- (ii) She didn’t get off the bus because she didn't have to go anywhere; she had come only for the bus ride.
- (iii) To cause to laugh/entertained.
- (iv) No

Short Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions :

1. What kind of a person was Valli?

Ans. Valli was a curious, keen observer who had strong will power and determination. She was bold, brave and self-respective. She had immense self confidence and wanted to do everything on her own. she was innocent, highly sensitive, intelligent and was a very careful planner.

2. How did Valli gathered all the information about the bus?

Ans. Over many days and months Valli listened carefully to conversations between her neighbours and people who regularly used the bus. She also asked a few discreet questions here and there. This way she gathered all the information about the bus.

3. How was the interior and exterior of the bus?

Ans. It was a new bus. Its outside was painted a gleaming white with some green stripes along

the sides. Inside, the overhead bars shone like silver. There was a beautiful clock above the windshield and its seats were soft and luxurious.

4. How did Valli save money to travel by bus?

Ans. Valli had thriftily saved whatever stray coins came her way. She resisted every temptation to buy peppermints, toys, balloons and ride on the merry-go-round at the village fair to save money for her bus journey.

5. How did Valli feel on seeing the dead cow on the road?

Ans. Valli was filled with sadness. She thought what had been a lovable, beautiful creature just a little while ago had now suddenly lost its charm and its life and looked so horrible and frightening.

6. Why did Valli want to ride on the bus?

Ans. Valli used to watch the bus on its hourly rounds through her street everyday. The sight of the bus filled with new passengers every time gave her unending joy. She was curious and wished to ride it once. So, she wanted to ride on the bus to enjoy it. □

8. THE SERMON AT BENARES

EXAM ORIENTED QUESTIONS

Comprehension

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow in one or two lines each :

1. GAUTAMA Buddha (563 B.C.- 483 B.C.) began life as a prince named Siddhartha Gautama, in northern India. At twelve, he was sent away for schooling in the Hindu sacred scriptures and four years later he returned home to marry a princess. They had a son and lived for ten years as befitted royalty.

Questions :

- (i) Who was Gautama Buddha?
- (ii) What did Gautama Buddha study?
- (iii) Find the exact word from the extract which means ‘people of royal family’.
- (iv) When did Gautama Buddha marry?

Answer :

- (i) Gautama Buddha was a prince born in North India.
- (ii) Gautama Buddha studied Hindu sacred scriptures.
- (iii) 'Royalty' from the extract means 'people of royal family'.
- (iv) Gautam Buddha married after his schooling at the age of sixteen years.

2. At about the age of twenty-five, the Prince, heretofore shielded from the sufferings of the world, while out hunting chanced upon a sick man, then an aged man, then a funeral procession, and finally a monk begging for alms. These sights so moved him that he at once went out into the world to seek enlightenment concerning the sorrows he had witnessed.

Questions :

- (i) Why did Gautama Buddha go out to seek enlightenment?
- (ii) What did Gautama Buddha see while hunting?
- (iii) Find the exact word from the extract which means 'a state of high spiritual knowledge'.
- (iv) Describe the thought of Gautam Buddha while he encountered with the different stages of life.

Answer :

- (i) Gautama Buddha was highly moved by seeing the sufferings of man. So he went out to seek enlightenment.
- (ii) Gautama Buddha chanced upon a sick man, then an aged man, then a funeral procession, and finally a monk begging for alms while hunting.
- (iii) 'Enlightenment' from the extract means 'a state of high spiritual knowledge'.
- (iv) Gautam Buddha was so upset and worried while encountering the different stages of life as a sickman, an aged man, a funeral and a monk begging for alms.

3. Poor Kisa Gotami now went from house to house, and the people pitied her and said, "Here is mustard- seed; take it!" But when she asked, "Did a son or daughter, a father or mother, die in your family?" they answered her, "Alas! the living are

few, but the dead are many. Do not remind us of our deepest grief." And there was no house but some beloved one had died in it.

Questions :

- (i) Why did Kisa Gotami go from house to house?
- (ii) What response did she get?
- (iii) Pick out the word from the passage that means same as—"pain".
- (iv) Was Kisa Gotami able to bring mustard-seed from any house?

Answer :

- (i) Kisa Gotami went from house to house to get the mustard seeds.
- (ii) She got the negative response about the mustard seeds. She couldn't find a house where no one had died.
- (iii) Grief.
- (iv) No, she could not bring mustard-seed.

4. "Of those who, overcome by death, depart from life, a father cannot save his son, nor kinsmen their relations. Mark! while relatives are looking on and lamenting deeply, one by one mortals are carried off, like an ox that is led to the slaughter. So the world is afflicted with death and decay, therefore the wise do not grieve, knowing the terms of the world.

Questions :

- (i) Why did the Buddha give this sermon to Kisa Gotami?
- (ii) What is the fate of mortals in the world?
- (iii) Why do the wise men not grieve?
- (iv) Pick out the word from the passage that means the same as—"the killing of animals for their meat".

Answer :

- (i) The Buddha gave this sermon to Kisa Gotami to console her because her son had died.
- (ii) Mortals are carried off like an ox that is led to the slaughter.
- (iii) Due to knowing the terms of the world, the wise men do not grieve.
- (iv) 'Slaughter'.

5. "The Buddha preached his first sermon at the city of Benares, most holy of the

dipping places on the River Ganges that sermon has been preserved and is given here. It reflects the Buddha's wisdom about one inscrutable kind of suffering."

Questions :

- (i) Name the holiest of the dipping places on the River Ganges where the Buddha preached his first sermon.
- (ii) What does Buddha's first sermon reflect?
- (iii) What did Gautama do after getting on enlightenment?
- (iv) How was he known as then?

Answers :

- (i) Benares.
- (ii) Buddha's wisdom about one inscrutable kind of suffering.
- (iii) After getting enlightenment, he began to teach and share his new understandings with the common people.
- (iv) As he started preaching, he was known as Buddha, meaning, the awakened or the enlightenment one.

Short Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions :

1. Where and when did Siddhartha become the Buddha?

Ans. At the age of 25, Siddhartha confronted a sick man then an aged man, then a funeral procession and finally a monk. He left his palace and wandered for seven years to gain enlightenment under a peepal tree until enlightenment came. After getting enlightenment he came to known as 'Buddha.'

2. Which people are referred to as "wise" by the Buddha in his sermons?

Ans. Buddha preached in his sermons that everything that is born will come to its end. Death is inevitable : both young and adult or fools and wise are subject to death. But the people who do not grieve knowing the terms of the world are called wise people. Wise people neither weep nor grieve.

3. Why was Gautama known as the Buddha?

Ans. Gautama sat under a peepal tree until he attained enlightenment. After seven days he got enlightenment and began to teach and share his new understandings. So he came to

be known as the Buddha (the Awakened or the Enlightened).

4. Describe the life of Gautama Buddha before enlightenment.

Ans. Buddha was earlier a prince and lived in luxury. When he encountered suffering and grief, it made him sad and sorrowful. He renounced everything and went in search of ways to get rid from suffering. He wandered for seven years Then, one day, he sat under a peepal tree and vowed not to leave until he was enlightened.

5. To seek peace one has to draw out the arrow of lamentation. State two values projected through the statement.

Ans. No lamenting can bring someone's dear and near ones back to life. Neither can they stop one's death. Lamenting tells upon one's health. He can become sick and pale. He loses appetite and interest in life. One has to learn that death is inevitable.

Long Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions :

1. Life is full of trails and tribulations. Kisa Gotami also passes through a period of grief in her life. How does she behave in those circumstances?

Ans. After the death of Kisa Gotami's only child, she became very sad. She carried her dead child to her neighbours in order to get medicine to bring him to life. Her neighbours thought that she had gone insane as she was unable to accept the fact that her child is dead. It was then that someone suggested her to meet Gautama Buddha. When she met Gautama Buddha, he gave her an exercise to do. She was asked to collect mustard seeds from a house where no one had ever died. She went from one house to another but was unable to find a single house in the town where no one had died. This way she realised that death is a part of life and anyone who is bound to die will die one day. Thus, Buddha changed her understanding of death by this exercise. Buddha told her that only the wise do not grieve and they accept the reality, mourning brings only pain and sufferings to

the body. One, who is composed, obtains peace of mind and will be free from sorrow and be blessed. This gave her strength to overcome grief.

- 2. Personal losses are a part and parcel of life. Instead of wailing on them, we should move on in life. This message of Gautama Buddha has become more relevant in modern times. Do you agree? Why/ why not?**

Ans. Yes, I agree with the message that Gautama Buddha have given about life. In the modern times, people have a lot to explore and move with the world at the same place. If people don't understand the practicality (practical aspect of reality) of life, they will be under stress which would in turn affect their personal and professional lives. People need to understand that everyone who is born will have to die one day. There is no use being sad or crying over the loss. People should remain calm and composed in such situations. They should face the truth and move on in life.

In today's world, people have to explore their growth prospects at a broader aspect. The pace of life is so fast that to catch it, we all have to move on in life as it never waits for anyone. We have to accept the truth of life and death and should think about the younger generation and the persons who are alive.

- 3. What lesson on death and suffering did the Buddha teach Gotami in the chapter, 'The Sermon at Benaras'.**

Ans. The lesson on death and suffering that Buddha taught Gotami was that these are part and parcel of life. No one can avoid this truth. One has to meet one's destined end one day. Whoever has come into this world will die one day. Thus, in the house of grief for a loved one who had died, one must remain calm and composed so that one doesn't become overcome with grief. Otherwise, they will feel the pain more. However, those persons who are wise never complain or lament over their loss, or even try to bring back to life their loved ones who are dead, as Gotami wanted to do. They accept the truth and overcome their sorrow.

Persons who overcome their sorrows will be blessed. So, wisdom is in the fact that people should not get distressed with pain, suffering and death.

- 4. The sight of a sick man, an aged man, a funeral procession and a monk made Siddhartha leave his home and go out in search of enlightenment. What lesson about life do you learn from this episode?**

Ans. Siddhartha lived a life full of luxuries till the age of twenty-five. Once when he went outside to hunt, he saw a sick man, an aged man, a funeral procession and finally, a monk begging for alms. The sight moved Siddhartha so much that he left the home and went in search of enlightenment. The incident revealed a great truth—life is short. Beauty, riches, comforts all are transitory and vanish one day.

If we all understand this fact and work towards making our life valuable for others, there would be no fight, grudges and pain. When somebody does something wrong, he/she forgets that one day we are going to be punished for our wrong deeds. In our trouble, we should have faith in God to struggle in life and wait for good times to come.



9. THE PROPOSAL

EXAM ORIENTED QUESTIONS

Comprehension

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow in one or two lines each :

- 1. What are you talking about? Oxen Meadows are ours, not yours!**

Questions :

- (i) Who is the speaker here?
- (ii) Who is being referred to by 'yours'?
- (iii) Find a word from the extract which means 'a piece of grassland'.
- (iv) Who is being referred to as ours?

Answer :

- (i) Natalya is the speaker here.

- (ii) Lomov is being referred by 'yours'.
- (iii) 'Meadows' from the extract means 'a piece of grassland'.
- (iv) Ours is referred as Natalya and his father.

2. Hear me out, I implore you! The peasants of your father's grandfather, as I have already had the honour of explaining to you, used to bake bricks for my aunt's grandmother. Now my aunt's grandmother, wishing to make them a peasant...

Questions :

- (i) Who is the speaker here?
- (ii) What did the peasants do?
- (iii) Find the exact word from the extract which means 'to ask something in a very serious way'.
- (iv) What is synonym of 'high respect in the extract'?

Answer :

- (i) Lomov is the speaker here.
- (ii) The peasants used to bake bricks for Lomov's Aunt's grandmother.
- (iii) 'Implore' from the extract means 'to ask something in a very serious way'.
- (iv) The word is 'honour'.

3. You may take it that I know whether I have the right or not. Because, young man, I'm not used to being spoken to in that tone of voice, and so on. I, young man, am twice your age, and ask you to speak to me without agitating yourself, and all that.

Questions :

- (i) Who is the speaker here?
- (ii) How did the speaker wanted Lomov to talk to him?
- (iii) Find the word from the extract which means 'to disturb, excite or anger someone'.

Answer :

- (i) Chubukov is the speaker here.
- (ii) Chubukov wanted Lomov to speak to him without agitating himself.
- (iii) 'Agitating'-from the extract means 'to disturb, excite or anger someone'.

4. Never mind about my people! The Lomovs have all been honourable people,

and not one has ever been tried for embezzlement, like your grandfather!

Questions :

- (i) Whom does the speaker say the above lines to?
- (ii) How did Lomov describes his people?
- (iii) Find the word from the extract which means 'theft of funds'.
- (iv) Explain 'Never mind about my People'.

Answer :

- (i) Lomov (The speaker) said the above lines to Chubukov.
- (ii) Lomov described his people as honourable.
- (iii) 'Embezzlement' from the extract means 'theft of funds'.
- (iv) Lomov said this line because his family members.

5. Natalya : What proposal?

Chubukov : Why, he came here to propose to you.

Natalya : To propose? To me? Why didn't you tell me so before?

Chubukov : So he dresses up in evening clothes. The stuffed sausage!

The wizen-faced frump!

Questions :

- (i) Who is being referred to as 'he'?
- (ii) Why did he meet Chubukov?
- (iii) Find the word from the extract which means 'make an offer of marriage to someone'.
- (iv) Who was dressed in as a stuffed sausage?

Answer :

- (i) Lomov is being referred to as 'he' in the extract.
- (ii) Lomov met Chubukov's to ask for Natalya's hand.
- (iii) 'Propose' from the extract means 'make an offer of marriage to someone'.
- (iv) Lomov was dressed in as a stuffed sausage.

Short Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions :

1. Why does Natalya ask her father Chubukov to fetch Lomov in at once? Why does she accuse her father?

Ans. Natalya asked her father to fetch Lomov at once as she had come to know that Lomov had come to propose her. She accused Chubukov of driving Lomov out of their home.

2. How does Lomov react when Chubukov says that he is not used to misbehaviour by a young man like Lomov?

Ans. Lomov reacts by saying that Chubukov thinks that he is a fool. He says that he cannot talk to him calmly and politely as he is making a false claim to his property. He further accuses Chubukov of being a grabber.

3. What happens to Lomov when he is in an excited state?

Ans. When Lomov is in an excited state his heart beat increases, lips tremble and there is a twitch in his right eyebrow. When he goes to sleep in such a state something pulls him from his left side and he jumps like a lunatic

4. How does Chubukov react when Lomov says that he has come to ask for the hand of his daughter?

Ans. When Lomov says that he has come to ask for the hand of his daughter, Chubukov gets off balanced with joy. He embraces and kisses Lomov, sheds a tear of joy and calls for God's blessing for Lomov and Natalya.

5. What does Lomov think when he is alone?

Ans. Lomov thinks that Natalaya is an excellent housekeeper, not bad looking, well educated. It is impossible for him not to marry. In the first place, he is already thirty-five. He ought to lead a quiet and regular life. He suffers from palpitations. He is excitable and always getting upset. There are some other problems too which trouble him.

6. Why does Lomov wish to propose to Natalaya?

Ans. Lomov wishes to propose to Natalaya because he feels she is an excellent housekeeper, not bad looking, and is also well-educated. Moreover he feels that he is already thirty-five, which is a critical age and he ought to lead a regular and settled life.

Long Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions :

1. The principle 'forgive and forget', helps a lot in maintaining cordial relations with our neighbours. Do you think Anton Chekov conveys this message in the play 'The Proposal' ?

Ans. Anton Chekov does convey the message that the principle of 'forgive and forget' helps a lot in maintaining cordial relationship with one's neighbours. Initially, the neighbours in the play, Lomov, Natalya and Chubukov were fighting over petty issues. They were putting important issues behind them and wasting their time by arguing over small things. These arguments slowly developed into fights and they started hurling abuses at one another. This damaged their relationship with each other.

It was when Natalya came to know that Lomov had come to propose her that she left the topic of argument (Oxen Meadows) behind. She also asked for forgiveness from Lomov and requested him to come to the point. Hence it is mandatory to 'forgive and forget' if one wants to have cordial relationship with others.

2. Neighbours must have a cordial relationship which Lomov and Natalya do not have. Describe the first fight between them.

Ans. Lomov and Natalya meet and rather than proposing her he gets off the point. He tells her how he inherited his land and how he respects her father. He also tells Natalya that his Oxen meadows touch Natalya's Birchwood. On hearing this, Natalya says that Oxen Meadows are theirs. They start arguing about it. Lomov clarifies that he is talking about the Oxen Meadows that are between her Birchwoods and Burnt marsh. Natalya again insists that they are theirs.

Lomov refuses it. He tells her that his aunt's grandmother gave those meadows to her father's grand father. The peasants used the

land for forty years and started regarding it as their own. Natalya's father comes and also starts quarrelling with Lomov. They get into a heated argument and resort to name-calling. After some time, Lomov leaves their house.

3. Write the summary of the play 'The Proposal' in your own words.

Ans. Lomov and Natalaya meet for a serious purpose, *i.e.*, to talk about marriage that decides the progress of one's life as a member of the conventionally established society. But the purpose of their meeting gets lost on two consecutive occasions because Lomov's faith in the values of his society disrupts his approach to the topic of marriage. He learns that the girl and her father like him, but, instead of proposing to marry her and discussing how

their marriage should be organised, he goes on to talk about properties, relations, family histories, and pets, draws them into an unnecessary argument, and antagonises both of them.

Finally, Chubukov marries Lomov and Natalya by force before another problem crops up. Thus the play ends in a comic note, just because the couple gets together with their father to celebrate their marriage while the dispute over the pets is still continuing. For any healthy relationship there should be mutual understanding and respect. Quarreling over trivial issues like dog cannot guarantee longevity of a relationship.



Section-A FIRST FLIGHT (Poetry)

1. DUST OF SNOW

EXAM ORIENTED QUESTIONS

Comprehension

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow in one or two lines each :

1. The way a crow

Shook down on me

The dust of snow

From a hemlock tree

Questions :

- (i) Name the poem and poet.
- (ii) Where was the crow?
- (iii) What did the crow do?
- (iv) What does a 'hemlock tree' represent?
- (v) What is the dust of snow?

Answer :

- (i) These lines have been taken from the poem 'Dust of Snow' composed by Robert Frost.
- (ii) The crow was on the hemlock tree.
- (iii) The crow shook the tree in such a way that the dust of snow fell on the poet.
- (iv) A hemlock tree is a poisonous tree. It is not considered auspicious. It represents sorrow.
- (v) Dust of snow refers to the snow flakes.

2. Has given my heart

A change of mood

And saved some part

Of a day I had rued.

Questions :

- (i) Who is 'I' in these lines?
- (ii) What changed the mood of the poet?
- (iii) What did the poet decide?
- (iv) What was the mood of the poet before and after the incident?

Answer :

- (i) 'I' is the poet himself here.
- (ii) The poet's mood changed when the dust of snow from the hemlock tree fell down on the poet.
- (iii) The poet decided to save rest of the day so that there is no harm or sorrow for him.

- (iv) The poet was in depressive mood before the incident and after the incident the poet was in an enjoyable mood.

Short Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions :

1. How did the crow change the poet's mood?

Ans. The poet was going somewhere in a snowy morning. He was upset. All the trees were covered with snow dust. A crow sitting on a hemlock tree shook the tree in such a way that some dust of snow fell on the poet. This changed his mood and he became happy and relaxed.

2. How has the poet observed nature in the poem 'Dust of Snow'?

Ans. The poet has observed nature as a positive medium of change for him. The poet had been in the sorrowful and depressive mood in the poem. But then the way a crow shook snow dust off, it changed his mood. Nature gave him the inspiration to behave in a positive manner.

3. Why does the poet use such poetically uncommon bird and tree? What does it reflect?

Ans. The poet seems to be in a depressive and sorrowful mood. In such a mood, one cannot think of a sweet and beautiful side of nature. The harsh, bitter and poisonous images come to his mind. That is why he uses an uncommon, harsh, ugly crow and poisonous tree like hemlock.

4. Justify the role of the crow in the poem "Dust of Snow" in changing the poet's mood.

Ans. I think 'the way snow dust was shaken off' changed his mood. Perhaps it gave the poet inspiration/idea to behave in the same manner—shake off his depressive thoughts and revive his cheerful mood.

5. Why does the poet feel that he has saved some part of the day?

Ans. Crow shook down the dust of snow on the poet. Both crow and hemlock tree are considered inauspicious. The falling of dust of snow from hemlock tree is bad omen. But the poet took it in a positive way. He found himself relieved from sorrow after this incident. Now he could use his entire day in a fruitful way. □

2. FIRE AND ICE

EXAM ORIENTED QUESTIONS

Comprehension

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow in one or two lines each :

- Some say the world will end in fire
Some say in ice.
From what I've tasted of desire
I hold with those who favour fire.

Questions :

- What is the poet's opinion of the world in these lines?
- What is the contradictory opinion of public?
- How are ice and fire similar to each other though they have contradictory traits?

Answer :

- In the poet's opinion the world will end in fire.
- The contradictory opinion of public is the debate whether the world will end in fire or ice.
- Both ice and fire are similar in the sense that both of them would destroy everything in the world.

- But if it had to perish twice
I think I know enough of hate
To say that for destruction ice
Is also great
And would suffice.

Questions :

- What does 'it' refers to in the first line?
- What do you mean by 'perish'?
- What does ice stand for?
- What would be the cause of destruction?

Answer :

(i) 'It' refers to the world.

(ii) Perish means to die or to be destroyed.

(iii) Ice stands for coldness.

(iv) Ice or fire would be the cause of destruction.

Short Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions :

- How has Frost brought out the contrasting ideas in the poem?

Ans. 'Desire' propels us in hot pursuit of something, hence, it is compared with fire. 'Hatred' makes us cold towards other's feelings. The coldness of ice can numb our senses. Similarly, the coldness of our hearts can numb our kindness. That is why 'hatred' has been compared with ice.

- Why does the poet hold with those who favour fire?

Ans. The poet takes side with those who believe that the world will be destroyed by fire. Frost connects fire with desire. According to the poet, desire is powerful and would be a quick end. Moreover, the fact that he has had personal experience with desire leads him to first conclude that the world will end in fire.

- Write the Central Idea of the poem 'Fire and Ice.'

Ans. 'Fire and Ice' is an extremely compact little lyric. Not a syllable is wasted. The theme of the poem is the age-old question. The question is whether the world will end in fire or in ice. The poet decides that any of the two options will achieve its purpose sufficiently well. The poet shares the common belief that everything exists will have its end too. But on this issue people are divided. Some of them think that the natural elements of fire will be the root cause of the destruction of this world.

Some others believe that ice will bring out this end. Putting in terms of human emotions, the elements of 'fire' signifies passions, desires and love. Desires and unbridled passions can cause the end of the world. The poet has experienced both emotions. It doesn't matter how the world will end. Even hate born out of cold and icy reason is

sufficient to cause destruction and the end of the world.



3. A TIGER IN THE ZOO

EXAM ORIENTED QUESTIONS

Comprehension

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow in one or two lines each :

1. He stalks in his vivid stripes

The few steps of his cage

On pads of velvet quiet

In his quiet rage.

Questions :

- (i) Why the tiger could walk only a few steps?
- (ii) How does the tiger move in the cage?
- (iii) What are the two qualities of the animal under reference?
- (iv) Why is he in quiet rage?

Answer :

- (i) The tiger could walk only a few steps because he was locked in a very small cage.
- (ii) The tiger moves very slowly and quietly in a threatening way.
- (iii) The tiger has vivid stripes on his body and soft velvet pads.
- (iv) He is in quiet rage as he is locked and his freedom has been curtailed. Thus, he is unable to show his anger and ferocity.

2. He should be lurking in shadow

Sliding through long grass

Near the water hole

Where plump deer pass.

Questions :

- (i) Who is 'He' here?
- (ii) Where should he be lurking?
- (iii) Where should he be sliding?
- (iv) Who would pass through the water hole?

Answer :

- (i) 'He' refers to the tiger.
- (ii) He should be lurking in the shadows in the forest.
- (iii) The tiger should be sliding through the long grass in the forest.

(iv) A plump deer would pass through the water hole.

3. He should be snarling around houses

At the jungle's edge

Baring his white fangs, his claws

Terrorising the village!

Questions :

- (i) What does the poet try to suggest through these lines?
- (ii) How does the tiger scare the people?
- (iii) Why does 'he' snarl?
- (iv) How does 'he' show his presence?

Answer :

- (i) The poet is trying to suggest that the tiger should be allowed to live in his natural habitat.
- (ii) The tiger scares the people by growling at them and showing his teeth and claws.
- (iii) 'He' snarls to show his anger and helplessness.
- (iv) 'He' shows his presence by baring his white teeth and claws.

4. But he's locked in a concrete cell

His strength behind bars

Stalking the length of his cage

Ignoring visitors.

Questions :

- (i) What does the phrase 'his strength behind the bar' suggest?
- (ii) Why does the tiger ignore the visitors?
- (iii) What is the tiger doing in the cage?
- (iv) What does the expression 'stalking the length of the cage' imply?

Answer :

- (i) It means that he is helpless as he is locked in a cage.
- (ii) The tiger ignores the visitors because he considers them devoid of feelings as none of them tries to help him out of the prison.
- (iii) The tiger is moving slowly and quietly along the length of the cage.
- (iv) It implies walking to and fro in helplessness.

5. He hears the last voice at night

The patrolling cars

And stares with his brilliant eyes

At the brilliant stars.

Questions :

- (i) What kind of voices does the tiger hear?
- (ii) Where does the tiger look at in the night?
- (iii) What do you mean by 'patrolling'?
- (iv) What is the effect of the repeated use of the word 'brilliant'?

Answer :

- (i) The tiger hears the voice coming from the patrolling cars at night.
- (ii) The tiger looks at the brilliant stars shining in the sky at the night.
- (iii) 'Patrolling' means to go around an area at regular times to check that it is safe.
- (iv) The repeated use of brilliant shows the contrast. The brilliant stars are free while the brilliant eyes are inside the cage.

Short Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions :

1. Is it safe to allow tigers to live in their natural habitat these days?

Ans. Although it is ideal for tigers to live in the wild, today, it will mean certain death for them. Fast diminishing jungles and danger posed by poachers have pushed tigers to the brink of extinction, making their natural home unsafe.

2. What is the theme of the poem?

Ans. The poet wants to convey that it is cruel to keep the wild animals in small enclosures of the zoo, away from their natural habitat. They feel angry, helpless and unhappy and remember their life and environment in the forest.

3. Why do you think the tiger was stalking in the cage? What does it show?

Ans. I think the tiger was feeling restless and uneasy in that small cage. He seems to be frustrated and helpless as he could not come out of the cage in the open and enjoy his freedom. He did not want to be a mere showpiece and a source of entertainment for human beings.

4. What difference do you find in the mood of a tiger when he is in a zoo and when he is in a forest?

Ans. In the zoo, in his small cage and devoid of freedom, the tiger feels unhappy, frustrated, restless and angry. In the forest, he enjoys moving majestically wherever he wants, terrorizes the villagers by displaying his sharp teeth and claws. He is happy in the forest enjoying his liberty and surroundings, but not in the zoo.

5. Write the Central Idea of the poem 'A Tiger in the Zoo.'

Ans. The Central idea of the poem 'A Tiger in the Zoo' composed by Leslie Norris is that a tiger is a wild animal and its lives in its natural habitat. But in the zoo it can't live a free life. The poet beautifully illustrates the mental condition of a tiger locked in a narrow cell. Every living being loves freedom. □

4. HOW TO TELL WILD ANIMALS

EXAM ORIENTED QUESTIONS

Comprehension

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow in one or two lines each :

1. If ever you should go by chance
To jungles in the east;
And if there should to you advance
A large and tawny beast,
If he roars at you as you're dyin'
You'll know it is the Asian Lion ...

Questions :

- (i) State features of an Asian Lion.
- (ii) What happens when the lion roars?
- (iii) What do you mean by 'tawny' ?
- (iv) What is the physical appearance of the lion in the stanza?

Answer :

- (i) An Asian Lion is large and brownish-yellow in colour.
 - (ii) When the lion roars, it is very scary and it feels like we are going to die.
 - (iii) 'Tawny' means brownish-yellow in colour.
 - (iv) The lion in the stanza is large and tawny.
2. Or if some time when roaming round,
A noble wild beast greets you,

With black stripes on a yellow ground,
Just notice if he eats you.
This simple rule may help you learn
The Bengal Tiger to discern.

Questions :

- (i) How can you recognise a Tiger?
- (ii) Why does the poet call him a noble animal?
- (iii) How is Bengal Tiger different from the other animals?
- (iv) What does the word 'ground' means here?

Answer :

- (i) A tiger can be recognised with the black stripes on his yellow hide.
- (ii) The poet calls him a noble animal as he is very impressive in size and does not roar loudly.
- (iii) Bengal Tiger is different from the other animals as he is quiet and roams silently.
- (iv) It means the hide or the background that is the skin of the Tiger.

3. If strolling forth, a beast you view,
Whose hide with spots in peppered,
As soon as he has leapt on you,
You'll know it is the Leopard.
Twill do no good to roar with pain,
He'll only lep and lep again.

Questions :

- (i) While walking, how does a leopard's hide appear to be?
- (ii) When does one come to know that it is a leopard?
- (iii) Give a synonym of 'strolling'.
- (iv) Why it won't do any good to roar with pain?

Answer :

- (i) A leopard's hide appears to be peppered while walking.
- (ii) According to the poet, one comes to know that it is a leopard when it leaps or jumps on him.
- (iii) Walking
- (iv) A leopard's grip is the toughest one, so one can't do anything under the grip of that beast.

4. If when you're walking round your yard
You meet a creature there,
Who hugs you very, very hard,
Be sure it is a Bear,

If you have any doubts, I guess
He'll give you just one more caress.

Questions :

- (i) Who is going to hug and why?
- (ii) This hug is also called?
- (iii) What is the antonym of 'Caress'?
- (iv) Where can a bear be found?

Answer:

- (i) The bear is going to hug you hard to embrace you.
- (ii) A Bearhug
- (iii) The antonym of 'caress' is 'boo'.
- (iv) A bear can be found in the yard where it may get nectar from the beehives.

Short Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions :

1. **Humour is the best medicine for every ailment in life. Comment.**

Ans. Humour is infectious. When humour is shared, it binds people together and increases happiness. Humour strengthens our immune system, boosts our energy, diminishes pain and protects us from the damaging effects of stress. It is the priceless medicine for every ailment in life. The poet, in the poem 'How to tell Wild Animals' creates humour by describing various beasts of prey. The way the poet explains the things is very funny yet interesting. The poet has depicted the wildlife very vividly and in a lively manner. While reading the poem, the readers enjoy the poet's work and it leaves them refreshed and happy.

2. **Write the Central Idea of the poem 'How to Tell Wild Animals.'**

Ans. The central idea of the poem 'How to Tell Wild Animals' composed by Carolyn Wells is that the poet uses some absurd things to give the poem a humorous touch. She tells us how we can recognize a particular animal. If it is a lion, it will roar before eating 'you'. If a beast eats you, it is the Bengal Tiger. She also gives her reader some clues how they can recognize a leopard or a bear or a crocodile or a hyena or a chameleon.

3. **What does the poet say about the crocodile and the hyena?**

Ans. The poet describes the crocodile and the hyena humorously. The hyena seems to be laughing. In fact, it does not laugh. Only its face appears so. On the other hand, the crocodile has tears in his eyes when it eats its victim. It appears as if he is shedding tears at the death of his victim. But this is not so.

4. How will you recognise the Bengal Tiger?

Ans. He is a very grand and impressive animal. His hide is yellowish. There are black stripes all over his body. He is very agile. The moment he notices someone, he will simply eat away that creature at once. If any animal fulfills all these traits, he must be the Bengal Tiger. □

5. THE BALL POEM

EXAM ORIENTED QUESTIONS

Comprehension

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow in one or two lines each :

1. **What is the boy now, who has lost his ball,
What, what is he to do? I saw it go
Merrily bouncing, down the street, and then
Merrily over — there it is in the water!**

Questions :

- (i) Name the poem and poet.
- (ii) What has the boy lost?
- (iii) What did he see?
- (iv) Where did the ball go?

Answers :

- (i) This stanza has been taken from the poem 'The Ball Poem', composed by John Berryman.
- (ii) The boy has lost his ball while playing.
- (iii) He saw the ball going down the street.
- (iv) The ball went into the water.

2. **No use to say 'O there are other balls':**

**An ultimate shaking grief fixes the boy
As he stands rigid, trembling, staring down
All his young days into the harbour
where His ball went.**

Questions :

- (i) What does 'O there are other balls' imply?

- (ii) Why is the child upset?
- (iii) What is he looking at?
- (iv) Name the poem and poet.

Answers :

- (i) It implies that the loss of his ball cannot console the boy even if he gets another ball.
- (ii) The child/boy is upset because he has lost his ball.
- (iii) He is looking at the place where his ball went.
- (iv) The poem "The Ball Poem" composed by John Berryman.

3. **I would not intrude on him;**

A dime, another ball, is worthless.

Now He senses first responsibility

In a world of possessions.

Questions :

- (i) What did the poet decide?
- (ii) What does the boy understand?
- (iii) What does the "World of Possessions" refer to?
- (iv) Name the poem and Poet.

Answers :

- (i) The poet decided not to interfere and suggest anything to the boy.
- (ii) The boy senses his first responsibility.
- (iii) It refers to the world where a man is known by his possessions and is continually led by his decision to possess.
- (iv) The poem 'The Ball Poem', written by John Berryman.

Short Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions :

1. **Why does the poet think that it is useless to give the following suggestion to the boy?**

'No use to say- 'O there are other balls':

Ans. According to the poet, it is useless to console the boy by saying that he can get another ball in place of the lost one. The boy had a long association with the ball. It was, thus, useless to give him such a suggestion because he wanted to get back the ball that he had lost.

2. **Write the central idea of the poem "The Ball Poem."**

Ans. The central idea of the poem "A Ball Poem" by John Berryman is that we lose many

things in life. We should learn to accept such losses. The ball is a beginning. The boy will too learn this truth, gradually.

3. What does the poet say the boy is learning from the loss of the ball? Try to explain this in your own words.

Ans. The boy has lost his ball while playing. The poet says that from this loss, the boy will learn in his years, what it means to lose something. Thus he will understand the nature of loss or how to face and cope up with losses one suffers in life. This experience of losing something will enable him to learn to be self-reliant and to stand up on his feet in the life where losses do occur, though they might not be important enough to worry about. □

6. AMANDA!

EXAM ORIENTED QUESTIONS

(D) Comprehension

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow in one or two lines each :

1. Don't bite your nails, Amanda!

Don't hunch your shoulders, Amanda!

**Stop that slouching and sit up straight,
Amanda!**

Questions :

- (i) Amanda is getting instructions for what purpose?
- (ii) Give a synonym of 'hunch'.
- (iii) What does the speaker of above lines instruct Amanda in the first stanza?
- (iv) What is the literary device used in the third line?

Answer :

- (i) Amanda is getting instructions as a part of her upbringing. Her conduct and manners are getting refined for future purposes.
- (ii) Bend.
- (iii) Amanda is getting instructed for biting her nails and sitting lazily with her shoulders bent.
- (iv) Literary device used in third line is Alliteration. 'Stop that slouching and sit up straight'.

**2. (There is a languid, emerald sea,
where the sole inhabitant is me
a mermaid, drifting blissfully.)**

Questions :

- (i) Why are these lines given within brackets?
- (ii) Give the word from the passage which means free flowing act of going with the motion and force?
- (iii) What is the role of mermaid here?
- (iv) Which word in the extract means opposite of 'sorrowful'?

Answer :

- (i) These lines are given within brackets because they reveal the inner thoughts of Amanda. Brackets are used for visual contrast between what Amanda is saying and what her mother is instructing.
- (ii) Drifting means free flowing act of going with the motion.
- (iii) Mermaid is a part of Amanda's fantasy in her own created world. As mermaid sails in a sea carelessly and effortlessly, similarly Amanda longs to do so in a place where she is all by herself.
- (iv) Blissfully is opposite of sorrowful.

3. Don't eat that chocolate, Amanda!

Remember your acne, Amanda!

**Will you please look at me when I'm
speaking to you,
Amanda!**

Questions :

- (i) Why is Amanda not looking at the speaker?
- (ii) Find the word in the extract which means same as consume.
- (iii) The speaker is so worried about acne. What does it show?
- (iv) Which word in the extract means the same as 'to gaze'?

Answer :

- (i) Amanda is lost in her own thoughts and is paying no attention to instructions being given to her. That is why she is not looking at the speaker.
- (ii) Eat means same as consume.
- (iii) Speaker being worried about acne shows how much importance is given to physical

beauty in a household. Amanda is prepared for the unforeseen future. Natural experience such as acne is also taken care of at any cost.

(iv) To look means the same as 'to gaze'.

**4. (I am an orphan, roaming the street,
I pattern soft dust with my hushed, bare feet.
The silence is golden, the freedom is sweet.)**

Questions :

- (i) How come silence is golden?
- (ii) Give a synonym of 'roaming'.
- (iii) What is Amanda upto in this stanza?
- (iv) What poetic device is used in this stanza?

Answer :

- (i) Silence is shown golden using the poetic device metaphor. By making silence golden the poet is estimating the worth of silence. For Amanda seeks peace and calmness, which is absent in her reality.
- (ii) Wandering.
- (iii) Amanda is again taking refuge in her imagination. Here, she wishes to be an orphan, away from her nagging parents. Amanda wants to roam aimlessly in streets and draw patterns using just her bare feet.
- (iv) The poet uses metaphor such as 'orphan', 'silence is golden', and 'freedom is sweet'.

**5. (I am Rapunzel, I have not a care;
life in a tower is tranquil and rare;
I'll certainly never let down my bright hair)**

Questions :

- (i) Does Amanda live on a tower?
- (ii) Why will Amanda not let down her bright hair?
- (iii) What is the underlying poetic device used in this stanza?
- (iv) Find from the passage a word which means the same as 'serene'.

Answer :

- (i) No, Amanda stays at her place. Here, she is imagining herself to be Rapunzel who lived on a tower.
- (ii) Amanda is aware about the story of Rapunzel. In the story of Rapunzel all the mishappening and misfortunes are brought

to her by letting down the hair. Amanda also wishes to live alone and carefree, without any disturbance.

(iii) Poet uses allusion here as the underlying poetic device.

(iv) The word is 'tranquil'.

**6. Stop that sulking at once, Amanda!
You're always so moody, Amanda!
Anyone would think that I nagged at you,
Amanda!**

Questions :

- (i) Is Amanda really sulking?
- (ii) Why does the speaker care for others?
- (iii) Give the word from the passage which means same as unstable.
- (iv) What poetic device has been used in the first line of this stanza?

Answer :

- (i) Amanda is not sulking. She just doesn't care about instructions given to her as she is lost in a world of her own.
- (ii) The whole poem revolves around the aspect that how one is presented in a society. Speaker doesn't wish to be regarded as a nagging parent in the society, so Amanda is expected to put up a happy face all the time.
- (iii) Moody means same as unstable.
- (iv) 'Alliteration' has been used in the first line; words 'stap' and 'sulking' start with the same sound.

Short Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions :

1. Why does Amanda seem moody most of the times?

Ans. Amanda seems moody most of the time because she is trying to make an escape from her sorry reality where she is nagged most of the times. It is indeed a sorry state for a small child like Amanda to bear. Here the only defence against such reality is her imagination where she often escapes to. Hence, it makes her look moody and uninterested.

2. What is the central theme of the poem Amanda?

Ans. The poem Amanda by Robin Klein highlights the importance of upbringing of a child. It

points out that upbringing doesn't involve making a child responsible and fit for the society only. It is important to note that upbringing involves understanding from both the sides. One cannot just force a child to be civilised and good mannered. "Love and proper care is required in nurturing of a child."

3. Why is Amanda getting scolded for having chocolate?

Ans. Amanda is getting scolded for having chocolates as previously it had caused her acne. Amanda's mother is very particular about such things.

Amanda is made conscious about her physical appearance. It is very sad that at such a young age Amanda is made to worry about natural experiences.

4. How life on a tower would be different from life anywhere else for Amanda?

Ans. Life on tower for Amanda would be very different from her reality. Just like Rapunzel, even she desires to live on top of a tower, away from everyday chaos. Amanda suffers due to the constant nagging from her parents. She seeks a place full of peace and serenity, where there is no one to disturb her. Hence, she wishes to live on a tower.

5. Is Amanda's attitude a typical teenage behaviour? What is the lesson for parents from this poem?

Ans. Amanda's attitude is typical for a teenager. Teenagers can be rebellious and apparently hot-headed with a highly independent perspective. In such circumstances, yelling at them and nagging them, as done in the poem with Amanda, will only make matters worse. Forcing decisions on them only make them more detached as we see in Amanda's case, where she wishes to be a love mermaid, an orphan or the lonely Rapunzel. She doesn't want to listen to anyone. □

7. THE TREES

EXAM ORIENTED QUESTIONS

Comprehension

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow in one or two lines each :

1. **The trees inside are moving out into the forest,
the forest that was empty all these days
where no bird could sit
no insect hide
no sun bury its feet in shadow
the forest that was empty all these nights
will be full of trees by morning.**

Questions :

- (i) From where are the trees moving out into the forest?
- (ii) Why can't birds sit in them or insects hide in them?
- (iii) How was the forest 'all these nights'?
- (iv) Are these trees useful for birds and insects?
- (v) What type of trees are these?

Answers :

- (i) The trees are moving out of the mind of the painter and coining on the canvas.
- (ii) These are not real trees. These are the trees in a picture or decorative trees in a house. So birds can't sit in them and insects cannot hide there.
- (iii) All these nights, the forest was empty.
- (iv) No, these trees are not useful for birds and insects.
- (v) These are decorative or picture trees.

2. **All night the roots work**

- to disengage themselves from the cracks
in the veranda floor.
The leaves strain toward the glass
small twigs stiff with exertion
long-cramped boughs shuffling under
the roof
like newly discharged patients
half-dazed, moving
to the clinic doors.**

Questions :

- (i) What do the roots do all night?
- (ii) How are the small twigs?
- (iii) What are the boughs compared to?
- (iv) What do the leaves do?
- (v) Name the poem and the poetess.

Answers :

- (i) All night the roots work to free themselves from the cracks in the veranda floor.
- (ii) The small twigs are stiff.
- (iii) The boughs are compared to newly discharged patients.
- (iv) The leaves strain towards the glass.
- (v) Poem : The Trees.
Poetess : Adrienne Rich.

**3. I sit inside, doors open to the veranda
writing long letters
in which I scarcely mention the departure
of the forest from the house.
The night is fresh, the whole moon shines
in a sky still open**

Questions :

- (i) Where is the poetess sitting?
- (ii) What is the poetess doing?
- (iii) What does she not mention in her letters?
- (iv) How does the poetess describe the night and the moon?
- (v) How is the sky?

Answers :

- (i) The poetess is sitting in her room.
- (ii) The poetess is writing long letters.
- (iii) She does not mention the departure of the forest from the house.
- (iv) The night is pleasant and fresh. The full moon is shining.
- (v) The sky is still open.

**4. The smell of leaves and lichen
Still reaches like a voice into the rooms.
My head is full of whispers
which tomorrow will be silent.**

Questions :

- (i) Where is the poetess sitting at present?
- (ii) Which smell is reaching her?
- (iii) What is her head full of?
- (iv) What will be silent tomorrow?

Answers :

- (i) At present, the poetess is sitting in her room.
- (ii) The smell of leaves and lichen is reaching her.
- (iii) Her head is full of whispers.
- (iv) Tomorrow, the whispers will be silent.

5. Listen. The glass is breaking.

**The trees are stumbling forward
into the night. Winds rush to meet them.
The moon is broken like a mirror,
its pieces flash now in the crown
of the tallest oak.**

Questions :

- (i) What is happening to the glass?
- (ii) What does the poetess say about the trees?
- (iii) What rushes out to meet the trees?
- (iv) How does the poetess describe the moon?
- (v) Why does the wind rush?

Answers :

- (i) The glass is breaking.
- (ii) The poetess says that the trees are stumbling forward into the night.
- (iii) The wind rushes out to meet the trees.
- (iv) The poetess says that the moon is like a broken mirror.
- (v) The wind rushes to meet the trees.

Short Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions :

1. What is the central idea of the poem 'The Trees'?

Ans. The central idea of the poem is the conflict between man and nature. A plant is brought inside the house when it is a sapling. But as it grows into a tree, it gets suffocated with the limited space is available. So it departs to feel free. The tree is thus moving out to occupy the now empty forest, made so by man's indiscriminate felling of trees. Humans must understand the negative impact of their actions on nature and mend their ways before it is too late.

2. Where are the trees at present? What do their roots, and leaves do?

Ans. The trees are in the house. The roots try to free themselves from the cracks of the veranda floor, and the leaves make efforts to move towards the glass perhaps in search of light. The small branches become stiff as they try to pull themselves towards the light.

3. Why is the description of the moon different in the beginning and at the end of the third stanza?

Ans. At the beginning of the third stanza, the poet says that one can see the whole moon shining

in the open sky but in the end, the moon seems to be broken like a mirror and its pieces shine in the crown of the tallest oak tree. The change is caused by the shifting of the trees outside.

4. How does the poetess describe the night? How does she feel?

Ans. It is night time. The night is fresh. In the open sky, the full moon is shining. The poetess feels the smell of leaves and lichen reaching inside the room. Her head is full of whispers. But she thinks that the next day these whispers will be silent.



8. FOG

EXAM ORIENTED QUESTIONS

Comprehension

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow in one or two lines each :

**1. The Fog comes
on little cat feet.**

Questions :

- (i) Name the poem and poet.
- (ii) How does the fog come?
- (iii) Who is the fog compared to?
- (iv) What is the meaning of the phrase 'little cat feet'?

Answer :

- (i) These lines have been taken from the poem Fog composed by Carl Sandburg.
- (ii) The fog comes stealthily.
- (iii) The fog is compared to cat.
- (iv) Fog comes stealthily and silently, as a cat. Therefore the arrival of fog is described as if it is coming like a walking cat.

**2. It sits looking
over harbour and city
on silent haunches
and then moves on.**

Questions :

- (i) What does 'it' refer to?
- (ii) Where does it settle over?
- (iii) What is 'it' compared to?
- (iv) Name the poem and poet.

Answer :

- (i) It refers to the fog.
- (ii) It settles over the harbour and the city.
- (iii) It is compared to the cat.
- (iv) The poem 'fog' composed by 'Carl Sandburg'.

Short Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions :

1. Difficulties come but they are not to stay forever. They come and go. Comment referring to the poem 'Fog'.

Ans. None can deny the fact that after every nightfall, there is sunshine. In other words sorrows follow happiness. Life has many ups and downs. We must all accept that problems as a part of life. We should strengthen ourselves so much that we are able to face them and stand up to solve these problems. We should not get carried away. We should learn that time and tide wait for none.

2. Write the Central Idea of the poem 'Fog'?

Ans. The Central idea of the poem 'Fog' Composed by Carl Sandburg is that the fog arrives silently unnoticed as a little cat does. It remains for some time cover the sea and the land, and then gradually disappears.

3. Describe the similarities that have been mentioned in the poem between the fog and a cat.

Ans. It is a dual image that changes and merges again in the original. The fog changes into a cat and the cat changes into the fog. Both of them come silently unseen and suddenly. Both engulf everything underneath them. The fog engulfs everything, the harbour and the city in its fold. The fog sits silently as a cat sits on its haunches. Then it disappears and moves ahead.



9. THE TALE OF CUSTARD THE DRAGON

EXAM ORIENTED QUESTIONS

Comprehension

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow in one or two lines each :

1. Belinda still lives in her little white house.

With her little black kitten and her little grey mouse,
And her little yellow dog and her little wagon,
And her realio, trulio little pet dragon

Questions :

- (i) To whom do the pets belong?
- (ii) Identify the poetic device used in the above lines.
- (iii) How many pets did Belinda have?
- (iv) What is the rhyme scheme in the stanza?

Answers :

- (i) Belinda
- (ii) Alliteration
- (iii) Four
- (iv) a; a; b,b.

2. Belinda giggled till she shook the house,
And Blink said weeck' which is giggling for a mouse,
Ink and Mustard rudely asked his age,
When Custard cried for a nice safe cage.

Questions :

- (i) Name the poem and its poet.
- (ii) Why were Belinda and Blink giggling'?
- (iii) What was the reaction of Belinda and other animals when they heard Custard crying for a nice cage?
- (iv) What does the growing of Mustard show?

Answers :

- (i) The Tale of Custard the Dragon by Ogden Nash.
- (ii) They were giggling at the Dragon because he always cried for a safety cage.
- (iii) They laughed at him. Mustard and Ink were rude and impolite as they asked Cuss what his age was.
- (iv) The growing of Mustard shows that he was angry by the interruption in their fun.

3. Belinda was as brave as a barrel full of bears,
and Ink and Blink chased lions down the stairs,
Mustard was as brave as a tiger in a rage,
But Custard cried for a nice safe cage.

Questions :

- (i) Who is 'Mustard' in the above lines?

- (ii) What did Custard generally cry for?
- (iii) Who are the characters in the above lines? List them with their pet names.
- (iv) What is the rhyme scheme of the above stanza?

Answers :

- (i) The yellow dog.
- (ii) Custard cried for a nice safe cage.
- (iii) 1. Belinda — Girl
2. Ink — Kitten
3. Blink — Mouse
4. Mustard — Dog
5. Custard — Dragon.

(iv) aabb.

4. Belinda tickled him, she tickled him unmerciful,
Ink, Blink and Mustard, they rudely called him Percival,
They all sat laughing in the little red wagon
At the realio, trulio, cowardly dragon.

Questions :

- (i) Who was Belinda?
- (ii) Why did Belinda and the other pets laugh at the dragon?
- (iii) Who are Ink and Blink?
- (iv) Why did they make fun of the dragon?

Answers :

- (i) Belinda was a small girl who lived in a small white house.
- (ii) Belinda and the other pets laughed at the dragon because he appeared to be a coward.
- (iii) Ink is the kitten and Blink is the mouse.
- (iv) Because it amused them, as he appeared to be a coward.

5. Belinda embraced him, Mustard licked him,
No one mourned for his pirate victim.
Ink and Blink in glee did gyrate
around the dragon that ate the pirate.

Questions :

- (i) Holkham refers to
- (ii) Notch mourned the death of pirate because he had
- (iii) In the extract, humour lies in the fact that Ink and Blink are

(iv) Whom did Belinda embrace?

Answers :

- (i) Custard
- (ii) Come to kill Belinda.
- (iii) Celebrating the victory of the dragon.
- (iv) Custard, the dragon.

**6. The pirate gaped at Belinda's dragon,
And gulped some grog from his pocket
flagon,
He fired two bullets, but they didn't hit.
And Custard gobbled him, every bit.**

Questions :

- (i) What is the rhyme scheme of the stanza?
- (ii) Who is projected as the hero in the above lines?
- (iii) How did Custard deal with the pirate?
- (iv) What were the bullets fired for?

Answers :

- (i) a, a, b, b.
- (ii) The dragon, Custard.
- (iii) He ate him.
- (iv) for killing Custard.

Short Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions :

1. How is the bravery of Belinda and her pets described in the poem? Do they really prove their courage and bravery?

Ans. Belinda and her pets are projected as very courageous and brave in the poem. Belinda is braver than a barrel of bears. Ink and Blink could chase even lions down the stairs. Mustard was as brave as a tiger in a rage. Only Custard, the dragon was considered to be timid and cowardly. Ironically, all proved cowards except Custard who fought against and swallowed the pirate.

2. Describe the outward appearance of Custard, the dragon. Why did he always cry for a nice safe cage?

Ans. Outwardly, Custard was a picture of power and strength. His teeth were big and sharp. There were spikes on top of him. His mouth spat fire. He had a big nose that resembled a chimney. There were daggers on his toes. However, Custard didn't possess the strength

of character. He lacked courage. He was not the courage of his real strength and always begged for a nice safe cage for his protection.

3. Write the Central Idea of poem 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon.'

Ans. The Central idea of the poem 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon' by Orden Nash is that Belinda lived in a white house with courageous Ink (= a mouse) and Mustard (= a yellow dog), and cowardly Custard who remained hidden in his cage. One day a pirate entered the house, and shot two bullets. Brave, Ink, Blink and Mustard fled, and 'cowardly' Custard killed him. □

10. FOR ANNE GREGORY

EXAM ORIENTED QUESTIONS

Comprehension

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow in one or two lines each :

1. "Never shall a young man
thrown into despair
By those great honey coloured
Ramparts at your ear,
Love you for yourself alone
And not your yellow hair"

Questions :

- (i) The above lines have been composed by
- (ii) 'You' in the above mentioned lines refers to
- (iii) The colour of her hair is
- (iv) A young man should never

Answer :

- (i) William Butler Yeats.
- (ii) Anne Gregory.
- (iii) Yellow.
- (iv) be thrown into despair.

2. "But I can get a hair-dye
And set such colour there,
Brown or black, or carrot,
That young men in despair
May love me for myself alone

And not my yellow hair”**Questions :**

- (i) What colour is her hair ?
- (ii) Why would she want to change the colour of her hair ?
- (iii) ‘Men in Despair’ means
- (iv) What are the different colours of the hair mentioned by the poet ?

Answer :

- (i) Yellow.
- (ii) To make her lover love her and not her hair.
- (iii) hopelessness
- (iv) Brown, black.

3. “I heard an old religious man

**But yesternight declare
That only God, my dear,
Could love you for yourself alone
And not your yellow hair.”**

Questions :

- (i) What does I refer to here ?
- (ii) How is God's love different from the love of young lovers ?
- (iii) Which word in the extract means ‘a religious book’ ?
- (iv) Name the poem and the poet.

Answer :

- (i) I here refers to the poet.
- (ii) God's love is superior to all other love, for it is unconditional. God's love is not biased by physical appearances or for that matter the colour of one's hair whereas young lovers care only for the looks.
- (iii) The word ‘text’ in the passage could be substituted for a religious book.
- (iv) The poet ‘For Anne Gregory’ is written by W B. yeats.

Short Answer Type Questions**Answer the following questions :****1. Between whom does the conversation in the poem take place?**

Ans. The poem is a conversation between a speaker, who could be the poet himself, or Anne's lover

or friend and Anne Gregory herself. The other speaker believes that young men love Anne for her external beauty but Anne says that external beauty is not real and young men should love her for herself.

2. Why do young men love Anne for her hair and not for herself alone?

Ans. Anne Gregory is so beautiful that no man is capable of ignoring her external beauty and looking inside her real nature. Her attractive external features stop men from knowing the real person. This is what that makes the speaker say that young men love Anne for her hair and not for herself alone.

3. How right or wrong is it to judge someone on the basis of his/her physical appearance?

Ans. Physical appearances never give the true account of a person as it can be changed with the help of clothing, make-up and other such things.

Something which is not true and real should not be used to judge the person carrying it. A person must be judged on the basis of his behaviour that shows the true characteristics of his personality. This is explained by Anne in her reply to the first speaker that her beautiful hair-colour which attracts men is changeable, hence, men should not fall in love with her based on her-hair colour.

4. Write the Central Idea of the poem ‘Anne Gregory’.

Ans. The Central Idea of the Poem The central idea of the poem 'For Anne Gregory' composed by W.B. Yeats is that humans are attracted by the outer beauty itself. Outer beauty is not real beauty and so is such love. Only God loves us as we are. The poet expressed this idea through conversation between a young man and a young woman.



Section-B FOOTPRINTS WITHOUT FEET

(SUPPLEMENTARY READER)

1. TRIUMPH OF SURGERY

EXAM ORIENTED QUESTIONS

Comprehension

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow in one or two lines each :

1. "Poor old lad", I said. "You haven't a kick in you but I think I know a cure for you".

Questions :

- (i) Why does the speaker say "poor old lad".
- (ii) What cure did the speaker know?
- (ii) What is the meaning of 'a kick' in the extract?
- (iii) Write a synonym of 'cure'.

Answer :

- (i) The speaker addresses Tricki as a poor old lad because he is unwell and listless.
 - (ii) The speaker knew that the cure for Tricki's illness is to put him on a strict diet.
 - (iii) The phrase means 'any alertness'.
 - (iv) 'Heal' is a synonym of 'cure'.
2. I tried to sound severe : "Now I really mean this. If you don't cut his food right down and give him more exercise he is going to be really ill. You must harden your heart and keep him on a very strict diet".

Questions :

- (i) Why did the speaker try to sound severe?
- (ii) For whom was the advice given and why?
- (iii) Find the word in the extract which is a synonym of the word 'serious'.
- (iv) What is the antonym of 'hardened'?

Answer :

- (i) The speaker tried to sound severe to make Mrs Pumphrey take his advice seriously and act on it.
- (ii) The advice was given for Tricki because he had become obese and listless. He was unwell and the speaker wanted him to be on a strict diet.
- (iii) The word is 'severe'.
- (iv) Its antonym is 'softened'.

3. I was really worried about Tricki this time. I had pulled up my car when I saw him in the street with his mistress and I was shocked at his appearance. He had become hugely fat, like a bloated sausage with a leg at each corner. His eyes, bloodshot and rheumy, stared straight ahead and his tongue lolled from his jaws.

Questions :

- (i) Who is "I" referred to in the above extract ?
- (ii) Why was he worried ?
- (iii) Which word in the above extract means the same as 'excessively' ?
- (iv) Why was the author shocked ?

Answer :

- (i) "I" refers to the veterinary doctor who is the narrator of the story.
 - (ii) He was worried to see the appearance of Mrs Pumphrey's dog.
 - (iii) 'Hugely'.
 - (iv) The author was shocked to see Tricki in the street.
4. It was a temptation to keep Tricki on as a permanent guest, but I knew Mrs Pumphrey was suffering and after a fortnight, felt compelled to phone and tell her that the little dog had recovered and was awaiting collection.

Questions :

- (i) Why was it a temptation to keep Tricki on as a permanent guest ?
- (ii) What was informed to Mrs Pumphrey on phone ?
- (iii) Which word in the above extract means 'a period of fifteen days' ?
- (iv) Was Dr. Herriot a greedy Doctor ?

Answer :

- (i) It was a temptation to keep Tricki on as a permanent guest in the hospital because Dr. Herriot and his partners didn't want to lose the treat, i.e., two dozen fresh eggs and bottles of wine sent by Mrs. Pumphrey.

- (ii) Mrs Pumphrey was informed that the doctor saved the life of her dog.
 - (iii) 'Fortnight'.
 - (iv) Yes, as he kept Tricki for many days in hospital in temptation
5. I had made my plans in advance. The only way was to get Tricki out of the house for a period. I suggested that he be hospitalised for about a fortnight to be kept under observation.

Questions :

- (i) Identify 'I' in the above extract.
- (ii) What was his concern?
- (iii) Who did the speaker suggest to?
- (iv) What kind of a person do you think the narrator is?

Answer :

- (i) 'I' is Dr Herriot.
- (ii) He was concerned about Tricki's health.
- (iii) Mrs. Pumphrey
- (iv) The narrator, Mr Herriot, a veterinary surgeon is an understanding, wise and tactful person. He is full of common sense.

Short Answer Type Questions**Answer the following questions :**

1. What made James Herriot expect a call from Mrs Pumphrey?

Ans. James Herriot's encounter with Mrs. Pumphrey and Tricki made him expect a call for help. He was sure that the extra diet and no physical activity would soon put Tricki's health in danger. And just as anticipated, Mrs. Pumphrey called the vet a few days afterwards.

2. What 'extra' did Mrs. Pumphrey start to give Tricki and why?

Ans. Mrs. Pumphrey thought that Tricki was suffering from malnutrition, as he was weak and listless. So, she started to give him extra snacks like cod-liver oil and malt between the main meals and Horlicks after dinner to make him stronger. She also continued his cream cakes and chocolates.

3. What made Mrs. Pumphrey call the vet?

Ans. Tricki's condition made Mr. Pumphrey call the vet for help. Tricki had become fat and lazy. He just used to lie on his rug and pant. He

also refused to eat food, even his favourite dishes. His bouts of vomiting added to Mrs. Pumphrey's worry. That is why, she called James Herriot.

4. How can you say that it was hard for Mrs Pumphrey to part with her doting pet?

Ans. Mrs. Pumphrey treated Tricki as her own child. She loved him very much. It was very difficult for her to see Tricki in such a situation. She was distraught when she had to make the decision to hospitalise Tricki, for her love for him knew no bounds. It was a terrible and tearful moment for her but she agreed to Herriot's suggestion for the betterment of her pet.

5. What kind of treatment was given to Tricki? Did it help in his recovery?

Ans. Tricki was given a non-medicinal treatment. His diet regimen was altered depending upon his body's response to it. He was kept on liquid diet for the first two days and then his diet was gradually increased. Yes, this treatment did help Tricki as it built up energy in him. He had transformed to an energetic, hard-muscled dog in just a fortnight.

6. Briefly describe Herriot's days of content.

Ans. The time of Tricki's stay at the hospital was a period of content for Herriot. He used to enjoy the treat that arrived in the name of Tricki, as he could not afford all this for himself. Herriot used to relish the fresh eggs in breakfast, wine before and during lunch and brandy in the night.

Long Answer Type Questions**Answer the following questions :**

1. Do you think parents like Mrs. Pumphrey exist? If yes, is it a good thing to pamper children? Why or why not?

Ans. Yes, parents like Mrs. Pumphrey definitely exist. These people spoil their children by taking sure all their demands are met. They spoil their children in the name of love and care. They not only feed them junk but also

spoil their social habits. This kind of a behaviour is very harmful for children. Such overprotective parental behaviour hinders their growth as adults. In fact it sows the seeds of greed and dependency in them. They become stubborn and do not learn to value anything. For them, hard work is a myth as they get everything easily. Over pampered children often fail to face the hardships of life later, as for them life has been a cakewalk. Pampering children in moderation is healthy, but excess of it is harmful. It is not just bad for humans but also for animals, as we see in the story 'A Triumph of Surgery'.

2. Excess of everything is bad. Comment in the wake of Mrs Pumphrey's love for Tricki.

Ans. Mrs. Pumphrey was a rich woman who loved her dog very much. She loved to live a comfortable and lavish life and also wanted her dog to spend a similar one. She had maintained a wardrobe full of fancy fur coats, dresses, beds etc for Tricki. Apart from this, she used to overfeed Tricki out of her love and concern. She used to serve him cod-liver oil and malt between the main meals and Horlicks after dinner to give him strength. She never realised that Tricki was a greedy dog and this would spoil his health. She could not even refuse to answer Tricki drooling for cream cakes and chocolates. Her overfeeding worsened Tricki's condition. This made the dog lazy, inactive and obese. He used to lie on his rug and pant all day long. Mrs. Pumphrey fed him excessively, spoiling Tricki's health to such an extent that he had to be hospitalised. Even in the hospital she continued to convey Tricki her love through eggs, wine and brandy. Her fondness and care for Tricki proved that excess of everything made him fall sick.

3. Write the brief character sketch of Mrs. Pumphrey.

Ans. Mrs. Pumphrey was a rich but eccentric lady. She was an ignorant kind of person. She had a pet dog Tricki, whom she loved more than anything. Her way of showing love was very different. She overfed Tricki. She showed her

concern by giving him rich and extra diet between meals which finally made Tricki ill. She couldn't bear Tricki doing exercise. She thought that it would make Tricki tired while it was necessary for him.

She pampered her pet which had a wardrobe of clothes for every season, different bowls for each meal, toys and what not. Her way of loving was not normal. But she was also a kind-hearted lady who finally burst into tears while parting with her dog. She had all human qualities as she didn't forget to thank Mr Herriot at the end.

4. "Kids or cubs need fondling but too much pampering may harm them". How far does it apply in the case of Tricki?

Ans. We all know that children are over-pampered by the parents due to their sentimental attachment to them. In the story 'A Triumph of Surgery' a dog Tricki is over-pampered by his wealthy mistress Mrs. Pumphrey. She believes that her little dog is suffering from malnutrition so she gives him some little extras between meals to build him up, some malt and cod-liver oil and a bowl of Horlicks at night to make him sleep.

Above all, he gets cream cakes and chocolates. To make the things worse he had been doing no exercise. When Dr Herriot takes the dog to his Veterinary hospital, it seems all the items of Tricki's comfort would be sent with him. Even during his stay at the hospital, Mrs. Pumphrey tries to provide him all the comforts. But Dr Herriot deals with the situation cleverly and the dog cures rapidly to return back to his mistress.

□

2. THE THIEF'S STORY

EXAM ORIENTED QUESTIONS

Comprehension

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow in one or two lines each :

1. Well, it's time I did some real work, I told myself; I'm out of practice.

Questions :

- (i) What 'real work' is the speaker talking about?
- (ii) Why does the speaker say 'I'm out of practice'?
- (iii) Give a synonym of 'practice'.
- (iv) What part of speech is the word 'real' in the extract?

Answer :

- (i) The 'real work' in the extract refers to stealing.
- (ii) The speaker says so because he is a thief and he has not robbed anyone recently.
- (iii) Here, habit is a synonym of 'practice'.
- (iv) It is an adjective.

2. He knew. But neither his lips nor his eyes showed anything.

- (i) Who is 'he' in the extract? What did he know?
- (ii) Why did he not show anything?
- (iii) Which word in the extract means the same as 'reveal'.
- (iv) What is the antonym of 'showed'?

Answer :

- (i) 'He' refers to Anil in the extract. He knew about the theft of his money.
- (ii) Anil did not show anything because he was understanding and Hari's return gave him the hope of a change in him.
- (iii) 'Showed' means the same as 'reveal'.
- (iv) 'Hide' is its antonym.

3. "I hurried back to the room feeling very nervous, for it is much easier to steal something than to return it undetected".**Questions :**

- (i) Who is the speaker of this line?
- (ii) Why was the speaker feeling nervous?
- (iii) Why was it difficult for the speaker to return the money?
- (iv) What is the view of Hari regarding theft?

Answers :

- (i) Hari, a young boy is the speaker of this line who is a thief.
- (ii) Because he was keeping back the stolen money and feared to get caught.
- (iii) He feared to get caught while keeping it back.

- (iv) It is much easier to steal something than to return undetected.

4. He took me to his room over the Jumna Sweet Shop and told me I could sleep on the balcony. But the meal I cooked that night must have been terrible because Anil gave it to a stray dog and told me to be off. But I just hung around, smiling in my most appealing way, and he couldn't help laughing.**Questions :**

- (i) What does 'I' refer to?
- (ii) Where did Anil take him?
- (iii) How did Anil react when Hari cooked a bad meal?
- (iv) How did Hari respond to his reaction?

Answers :

- (i) 'I' refers to Hari Singh.
- (ii) Anil took him to the room where he stayed, over Jumna Sweet Shop.
- (iii) Anil gave the food to the stray dogs and asked Hari to leave.
- (iv) Hari kept on smiling appealingly.

Short Answer Type Questions**Answer the following questions :****1. Was Hari Singh successful in robbing Anil? Was Anil the only one who was robbed or did Hari also rob himself of something?**

Ans. Yes, Hari Singh was successful in robbing Anil. But Anil was not the only one who was robbed at that time. Hari had robbed himself as well. He had lost the chance of receiving education and being literate. He had robbed Anil monetarily but he had robbed himself of the chance for a better and brighter future, which was much more valuable.

2. State the events that took place on the night of the theft.

Ans. The night of robbery was quite eventful for Hari Singh. After stealing Anil's money and leaving Anil's house, Hari went to the railway station but didn't board the train to Lucknow. He walked slowly through the bazaar as he did not know anyone who would provide him shelter except Anil, for he didn't have any friends. He was forced to take

shelter under the clock tower later when it started raining heavily. That is where he realised the importance of education and decided to go back to Anil.

3. Had Anil really forgiven Hari Singh? Support your answer with evidence.

Ans. Yes, Anil had forgiven Hari Singh. It is evident because Anil handed over to Hari a fifty rupee note as soon as Hari woke up. Though he knew that Hari had robbed the money at first but his subsequent actions gave him hope of change in Hari's character.

4. What does he say about the different reactions of people when they are robbed?

Ans. In his short career as a thief, he has studied reactions of so many people when they are robbed off their belongings. He has observed that the greedy people showed fear; the rich showed anger and the poor people showed acceptance.

5. What does he get from Anil in return for his work?

Ans. When Hari asks Anil if he could work for him, Anil replies that he could not pay him. Finally, they reach an agreement that if he would cook, then Anil would feed him. However, Anil soon found out that he did not know how to cook. So, he taught him how to cook and later, how to write his name. He promised he would teach him how to write whole sentences and also how to add numbers. Apart from this, when Hari went out to buy the day's supplies, he would make a profit of a rupee a day.

Long Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions :

1. Hari Singh didn't board the express and returned to Anil. Why did he return? On what values does this incidence put light on?

Ans. Hari Singh was a thief and he had stolen Anil's money. After the theft, he realised that he had robbed not only Anil but also himself of the chance of being literate and having a bright future. His conscience pricked him to think what all he could have got had he not done this. It was difficult for him to rob Anil

but it was tougher for him not to back. He realised that he could not make tea, buy daily supplies and learn how to read and write then. His inner self did not agree to bypass this and forced him to return.

Hari's return to Anil shows that despite indulging in criminal acts, he still had a practical and positive attitude towards life. It is the awakening of Hari's conscience and Anil's love and care that reformed Hari's character. It teaches us that love alone can change a person. Anil's understanding nature and care changed Hari's thinking to mend his ways for good.

2. Have you met anyone like Hari Singh? Can you think and imagine the circumstances that can turn a fifteen years old boy into a thief?

Ans. Yes, I know of a boy who was spoilt. His father was a driver and his mother was doing household work in various houses. He was sent to school but he started stealing something or the other from the student's bags. So he was turned out of the school. He was beaten many times by his parents but he did not give up stealing. One day he ran from his house. After seven months he came back home. Difficulties faced by him made him a changed boy. He rejoined the school and is doing well with his studies.

I think the circumstances that can turn a fifteen year old boy into a thief may vary from person to person. But poverty, lack of education, unemployment, lack of food, negligence of parents and lack of pocket money, bad company and various allurements to buy something or others when there is no sufficient money may be some of the reasons for this.

3. Why does not Anil hand the thief over to the police? Do you think most people would have done so? In what ways is Anil different from such employers?

Ans. Anil does not hand over the thief to the police because he realized that Hari has already learnt a lesson and he has changed for the better now. Otherwise he would have never

put the money back in its place. Though Anil knew how Hari cheated him of a rupee while buying the daily supplies but he never made it obvious in front of him.

Anil wants to give Hari one more chance to mend his ways and thus forgives him. Hari's case is such that nobody would have forgiven him and straightway handed him over to the police. But Anil is a little different from such employers because he is modest in nature and does not want another person to suffer without giving him a chance to become a better person.

4. If you were Anil, would you have pardoned the thief? If Yes/No why?

Ans. Once Hari Singh, a seasonal thief met Anil at a wrestling match. He gave Anil an artificial smile and asked for work in case he could feed him. Anil agreed but on every purchase Hari Singh made a profit. One day Hari Singh stole Anil's money which was kept under the mattress and left for the station. But the train left. In between, a good sense prevailed on Hari Singh. He slipped the money under the mattress and slept.

After tea, Anil gave Hari Singh a fifty rupee note and promised to pay him regularly. The note was still wet. Anil understood everything but did not expose the thief's doing. If I had been Anil, I would have pardoned him and traced the reasons for his thievish nature. I would give him an opportunity to mend his ways after serving a warning on the thief.



3. THE MIDNIGHT VISITOR

EXAM ORIENTED QUESTIONS

Comprehension

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow in one or two lines each :

1. **“You are disillusioned”, Ausable told him. “But take cheer, my young friend. Presently you will see a paper, a quite important paper for which several men and women have risked their lives, come to me. Some day soon that paper may**

well affect the course of history. In that thought is drama, is there not?”

Questions :

- (i) Who is ‘my young friend’ in the above extract?
- (ii) What is the ‘important paper’ referred to here?
- (iii) Find a word from the passage that means the same as ‘disappointed’.
- (iv) What is the opposite of ‘important’?

Answer :

- (i) ‘My young friend’ in the above extract is Fowler, a young romantic writer.
- (ii) The ‘important paper’ referred to here is a report regarding some new missiles.
- (iii) The word is ‘disillusioned’.
- (iv) Its opposite is ‘unimportant’.

2. **‘You can get onto it from the empty room two doors down—and somebody did, last month. The management promised to block it off. But they haven’t.’**

Questions :

- (i) Who is speaking these words to whom?
- (ii) What is ‘it’ in the above extract?
- (iii) Find a phrase in the passage that means the same as ‘close it up’.
- (iv) The opposite of ‘empty’ is.....

Answer :

- (i) Ausable is speaking these words to Fowler, but he also wants Max to hear them.
- (ii) ‘It’ refers to the (non-existent) balcony.
- (iii) The phrase is block it off.
- (iv) Its opposite is ‘full’.

3. **And then there was his accent. Though he spoke French and German passably, he had never altogether lost the American accent he had brought to Paris from Boston twenty years ago.**

Questions :

- (i) Who is ‘he’ in the above extract?
- (ii) Where is he at present?
- (iii) Find the word from the extract that means the opposite of ‘fluently’.
- (iv) What is the present tense of ‘spoke’?

Answer :

- (i) 'He' in the above extract is Ausable, a secret agent.
 - (ii) At present he is about to enter his room on the sixth floor of a French hotel.
 - (iii) The word is 'passably'.
 - (iv) 'Speak' is its present tense.
4. "You are disappointed", Ausable said wheezily over his shoulder. "You were told that I was a secret agent, a spy, dealing in espionage and danger. You wished to meet me because you are a writer, young and romantic. You envisioned mysterious figures in the night, the crack of pistols, drugs in the wine."

Questions :

- (i) Who was disappointed and with whom?
- (ii) Why did 'he' want to meet Ausable?
- (iii) Why was Fowler disappointed?
- (iv) How was Ausable different from the other secret agents?

Answers :

- (i) Fowler was disappointed to see Ausable.
- (ii) Fowler wanted to meet him because he was a writer and wished to meet a real spy.
- (iii) He was disappointed to meet Ausable who looked ordinary, slow, sluggish and a very fat person who lived in a small room on the top floor of a cheap hotel.
- (iv) Ausable unlike other secret agents, was very fat with an accent of both French and German.

Short Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions :

1. Why had Fowler wanted to meet Ausable?

Ans. Fowler was a writer and he had wanted to meet Ausable, a renowned secret agent. Fowler wanted to know how Ausable tackled dangerous situations. He was disappointed when he saw Ausable, as he didn't look like what Fowler thought a secret agent should look like.

2. Ausable shows great presence of mind in a situation of danger and surprise. Do you agree with this statement? If yes, why?

Ans. Yes, I agree with this statement, as Ausable showed great presence of mind when Max pointed a gun at him when he entered the hotel room with Fowler, which surprised and endangered both of them. He remained calm and cool, inventing stories as required to fool Max into jumping to his death.

3. How does Ausable manage to make Max believe that there is a balcony attached to his room?

Ans. Ausable creates a detailed description of how his office was part of a bigger apartment and how the next door room had a direct connection with the balcony. His statement that somebody else had also broken into his office through that balcony made it a convincing story.

4. A calm mind can help you tackle direct stress. Explain.

Ans. Certainly, a calm mind can help us to tackle direct stress. If Ausable had panicked and done something fishy, then Max probably would have killed him. But Ausable kept his cool. Apart from this story, there can be some real life examples also. We are always told to focus when we are appearing for exams or not to panic in a difficult situation because such things hamper our thinking ability. We are not able to take proper decisions at this time. If we keep our mind cool and focus, then only can we find ways to get out of crunch situations.

5. What information did Ausable give about the imaginary balcony? Why did he do so?

Ans. Ausable created a detailed description of how his room was part of a bigger apartment and how the next room had a direct connection with a balcony. His statement that somebody else had also broken into his office through that balcony made it a convincing story. Ausable did this to fool Max into thinking that a balcony existed just outside the window, as he knew that soon the waiter bringing the drinks he had ordered would be knocking at the door, which may prompt Max to jump into the imaginary balcony to hide.

Long Answer Type Questions*Answer the following questions :*

- 1. Ausable was a successful secret agent. What qualities can be attributed to him? Give some examples.**

Ans. Ausable was very fat. He appeared to be a slow and sluggish person. But inside that fat body, he had a very sharp brain.

It was throwing his presence of mind, intelligence and cleverness that he got rid of Max easily. When Max heard a knock at the door Ausable told him that it was the police whom he had called for the extra protection of the papers.

Max wanted him to send them off quickly till he waited in the balcony.

Ausable had ordered a drink and it was the waiter with the drink knocking at the Ausable used to mislead Max. The poor fellow was jumped not in the balcony but on the ground from the sixth the preence of waiter floor. This way Ausable got rid of Max. Hence, it max proves that he was clever secret agent.

- 2. Give a character-sketch of Ausable highlighting his presence of mind and intelligence.**

Ans. Ausable is a different kind of secret agent. Generally, secret agents that are described in detective books and shown in films, are very smart and gun-friendly. Wine and dark-eyed beauties are associated with them. However, Ausable doesn't present such a romantic picture. He is very fat and sloppy. He lives in a small room on the sixth floor. Fowler is disappointed after meeting Ausable.

They say that appearances are often deceptive. This is quite true in the case of Ausable. Physically, he may be fat but mentally he is very agile and quick-witted. He knows all the tricks of his trade. He is very quick to react and can cook up stories that may fit in all kinds of situations. He convinces even the crafty Max that there is a balcony below the window of his room. This is a well thought cut trap and Max unwillingly falls into it. Then he cooks up the story of the police. He again succeeds in convincing Max that the loud

knockings at the door are that of the police. He tells Max that he himself has sought the protection of the police as he has the important report concerning some new missiles with him. In this way, he gets rid of his rival and enemy Max who jumps out of the window only to cry for the last time in his life.

- 3. Presence of mind and intelligence are more powerful than a gun. How far is it true in case of Ausable, the secret agent?**

Ans. Ausable is actually not of that kind as we read in detective stories and books nor is he like the heroes of James Bond films. Ausable is an exception. The young writer Fowler is disappointed after meeting Ausable. Ausable does not fit any description of a secret agent. He is fat and sloppy. His room is rather small and that too on the sixth floor. However, appearances are generally deceptive. Ausable proves that presence of mind and intelligence are more powerful than a gun.

Presence of mind and intelligence are the assets of Ausable. His sharp reaction, particularly to a dangerous situation, is very quick and thorough. When he finds crafty Max in the room with a pistol in his hand, he at once understands the purpose of his visit. The rival secret agent who has come to take away the important report that concerns with some new missiles must be outwitted and defeated in his own game. Ausable cooks up the stories of the balcony and the police so convincingly that Max falls into his trap. While there is no balcony below the window of his room, the knockings at the door are not of the police but of his waiter. The confused and unnerved Max jumps out of the window in desperation. Thus, through his presence of mind and intelligence, Ausable proves himself more powerful than a gun.

- 4. How did crafty and foxy Max fail to take away the all-important report concerning some new missiles from Ausable?**

Ans. Naturally, it was a fight between two secret agents belonging to two different

organisations. The bone of contention was the all-important report concerning some new missiles. It was with Ausable, and Max wanted to take it away by the use of his gun. The report was so important that several men and women had risked their lives to get it. Someday that report might well have affected the course of history. No doubt, Max had come prepared. When Ausable switched on the light, he found Max standing halfway across the room with a small automatic pistol in his hand. Ausable had to use his presence of mind and fertile brain to outwit Max. His cooking up of two stories related to the balcony below his window and the police were his masterstrokes. In his simple way, Ausable succeeds in convincing Max that both the stories were true. Actually, there was no balcony below his window. He wanted to unnerve Max by planting the false story that the loud knockings at the door were of the police. In desperation, Max jumped out of the window and Ausable got rid of his crafty rival forever.



4. A QUESTIONS OF TRUST

Comprehension

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow in one or two lines each :

1. **A small dog was lying in the kitchen. It stirred, made a noise, and moved its tail in a friendly way.**

Questions :

- (i) What is the name of the dog mentioned in the above extract?
- (ii) In which house is the kitchen referred to located?
- (iii) Find a word from the passage that means the same as 'cordial'.
- (iv) What is the opposite of 'friendly'?

Answer :

- (i) The name of the dog mentioned in the above extract is Sherry.
- (ii) The kitchen referred to is located in Shotover Grange.

- (iii) The word is 'friendly'.
- (iv) Its opposite is 'hostile'.

2. **She laughed, and he begged, thinking that he had persuaded her, "Look, I have no right to ask you for anything, but I'm desperate."**

Questions :

- (i) Who are 'she' and 'he' in the above extract?
- (ii) Why did 'he' say that he was desperate?
- (iii) Find a word in the passage that means the same as 'convinced'.
- (iv) What is the opposite of 'persuaded'?

Answer :

- (i) 'She' is young lady who Horace met in the house and 'he' is Horace Danby.
- (ii) Horace was desperate because he had been caught stealing and did not want to go to prison.
- (iii) The word is 'persuaded'.
- (iv) Its opposite is 'dissuaded'.

3. **So he robbed a safe every year. Each year he planned carefully just what he would do, stole enough to last for twelve months, and secretly bought the books he loved through an agent.**

Questions :

- (i) Who is 'he' in the above extract?
- (ii) Why did 'he' rob only one safe every year?
- (iii) Find the word from the extract that means the opposite of 'openly'.
- (iv) What is the present tense of 'stole'?

Answer :

- (i) 'He' in the above extract is Horace Danby.
- (ii) He robbed only one safe every year because he robbed just enough to satisfy his hobby of buying and collecting rare and expensive books. Otherwise, he was just an honest lock-maker.
- (iii) The word is 'secretly'.
- (iv) Its present tense is 'steal'.

4. **"Then he heard a voice say from the doorway, "What is it? A cold or hay fever?"**

Questions :

- (i) Who heard whose voice and where?
- (ii) What is the significance of this question asked by somebody?

- (iii) What did Horace suffer from?
- (iv) How did it result in his failure in his robbery attempt at the house at Shotover Grange?

Answer :

- (i) Horace Danby heard a lady's voice in the house at Shotover Grange.
- (ii) She appeared to be concerned about the problem. She wanted to prove that she was the owner of the house.
- (iii) Horace Danby suffered from hay fever.
- (iv) The smell of flower made him sneeze. At Shotover Grange, the flowers betrayed his presence to the lady in red who posed to be the mistress of the house.

5. Horace saw them go, and he felt, happy in spite of a little tickle of hay fever in his nose.

Questions :

- (i) Who did Horace see 'go' that made him happy? How many were there?
- (ii) Why did Horace forget his discomfort and was pleased?
- (iii) Why was Horace in discomfort?
- (iv) How did it herald his presence in the house at Shotover Grange?

Answer :

- (i) Horace saw the two servants of Shotover Grange go for a movie, leaving the place empty.
- (ii) Horace was pleased because Shotover Grange was empty and he could rob it.
- (iii) He was suffering from hay fever.
- (iv) The pollen made him sneeze. At Shotover Grange, the flowers betrayed his presence to the young lady who posed to be the mistress of the house.

Short Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions :

1. How did the lady in red convince Horace Danby to open the lock?

Ans. The lady told Horace Danby that she had promised her husband to take her jewels to the bank but she left them in the safe. She had forgotten the numbers to open the safe and wanted to wear the jewels to a party. Horace Danby believed her and opened the safe for her.

2. Why did Horace Danby feel sure of his success in that year's robbery?

Ans. Horace Danby felt sure of his success in that year's robbery as he had been studying room, paths and gardens of the house at Shotover Grange for two weeks. He knew that the family was in London and two servants who lived in the house had gone to watch a movie that afternoon.

3. What story did the lady tell Horace Danby to get the jewels?

Ans. The lady made up a story that before going to London, she promised her husband to take her jewels to their bank, but she left them there in the safe. She wished to put on the jewels to a party that night. Above all she had forgotten the numbers to open the safe. Thus she convinced Horace Danby to open the safe.

4. Who is speaking to Horace Danby?

Ans. A lady standing in the doorways is speaking to Horace Danby. She is young and pretty, and is dressed in red. She said she had come just in time, or else her family would have been robbed by Horace. She, thus, pretended to be one of the members of the family living at Shotover Grange.

5. Which of the two thieves lacked 'honour' in the story 'A Question of Trust'?

Ans. "There is honour among Thieves" means that dishonest people may have certain standards of behaviour which they will respect. The young lady pretended to be the owner of the house and innocently asked Horace Danby to open the safe as she would need the jewels to wear to the party that day. Horace Danby found himself trapped in a tricky situation and could not make out how to escape. He readily opened the safe unwittingly leaving his fingerprints. He was arrested and nobody believed that the lady of the house asked him to open the safe.

Long Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions :

1. "Horace Danby was clever but the young woman was cleverer". Discuss.

Ans. Horace Danby was a clever thief. He lived a life of a respectable and successful businessman. He used to make locks. He was fond of rare and expensive books. He did not have enough money to buy these books. He used to rob a safe for this once in an year. He was very clever. He made his plan in such a way that he was never caught. He spent a lot of time in planning his mission. He never left any sign of theft but the lady who was another thief proved herself cleverer than Danby. She was a great actress as well.

She pretended to be the owner of the house. She tricked Danby who opened the safe for her and handed over the jewels. Horace was so nervous that he did not realise that he had no gloves in his hand. The lady had no tools, no gloves but managed to rob the safe without leaving any evidence against her. Thus, we can say that the lady was cleverer than Danby.

2. “Horace Danby was good and respectable but not completely honest”. Why do you think this description is apt for Horace? Why can’t he be categorized as a typical thief?

Ans. “Horace Danby was good and respectable but not completely honest”. This description is apt for Horace. He was about fifty years old. He robbed only from rich people. His purpose of stealing money was only to buy rare and expensive books. He stole only once every year. His intention to use the booty in buying books was good. However, the fact that he stole to achieve this intention showed that he was not completely honest.

He cannot be categorized as a typical thief because he did not steal to eat or drink and was not a regular offender. He did not harm anybody during the act. He had a house. He made locks, had two people to help him, and was successful in his business. He only stole enough money to buy the books. For a couple of days, he even kept his promises to the lady he met at Shotover Grange by not stealing or planning any robbery.

3. “Horace had some hope because she seemed to be amused at meeting him.” Why did Horace feel so?

Did he consider the young lady compassionate towards him? Did he find her free from biases? Discuss the values Horace should have imbibe understanding of the person in about 100-120 words.

Ans. Horace was a fifty-year-old man who used to rob only to buy rare and expensive book. This time he decided to rob Shotover Grange but as soon as he entered the room, a young lady appeared. She posed to be the lady of the house. She was very confident in her way of talking. She talked about high ideals like pro-acting. Then she tried to be polite and nice to him. On hearing her, Horace felt that he had a hope of escaping. He found her a bit compassionate towards him. He was amused at her. She acted in quite a subtle manner and showed her sympathy and admiration towards a simple and honest man. He could not judge her ace. She made Horace promise that he would never commit the crime again. Horace was impressed by cleverness and shrewdness and hence later got arrested for stealing the jewels which he did not actually steal.

□

5. FOOTPRINTS WITHOUT FEET

EXAM ORIENTED QUESTIONS

Comprehension

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow in one or two lines each :

1. The air was bitterly cold and he could not do without clothes. Instead of walking about the streets he decided to slip into a big London store for warmth.

Questions :

- (i) Who is 'he' in the above extract?
- (ii) Why was the air bitterly cold?
- (iii) Find a word from the extract that means the same as 'quietly enter'.
- (iv) What is the opposite of 'warmth'?

Answer :

- (i) 'He' in the above extract is Griffin, the invisible scientist.
- (ii) The air was bitterly cold because the season was mid-winter.
- (iii) The word is 'slip'.
- (iv) Its opposite is 'chill'.

2. Suspicion grew even stronger when he suddenly produced some ready cash, though he had admitted not long before that he had no money.

Questions :

- (i) Who is 'he' in the above extract?
- (ii) What was 'he' suspected for?
- (iii) Find a word/phrase from the extract that means the same as 'money'.
- (iv) Give a synonym of 'suddenly'.

Answer :

- (i) 'He' in the above extract is Griffin, the invisible scientist.
- (ii) 'He' was suspected for having a role in the burglary at the clergyman's home.
- (iii) The phrase is 'ready cash'.
- (iv) Its synonym is 'immediately'.

3. As they gazed, a remarkable sight met their eyes. A fresh footmark appeared from nowhere!

Further footprints followed, one after another, descending the steps and progressing down the street.

Questions :

- (i) Who are 'they' in the above extract?
- (ii) Who is making these footprints?
- (iii) Find the word from the extract that means the same as 'continuing'.
- (iv) What is the opposite of 'remarkable'?

Answer :

- (i) 'They' in the above extract are two boys on a street in London.
- (ii) The scientist Griffin, who has become invisible, is making these footprints.
- (iii) The word is 'progressing'.
- (iv) Its opposite is 'ordinary'.

4. Brilliant scientist though he was, Griffin was rather a lawless person. His landlord disliked him and tried to eject him. In revenge Griffin set fire to the house. To get away without being seen he had to

remove his clothes. Thus it was that he became a homeless wanderer, without clothes, without money and quite invisible-until he happened to step in some mud, and left footprints as he walked!

Questions :

- (i) How can you say that Griffin was a brilliant scientist ?
- (ii) How did he reach to that position ?
- (iii) Which word in the above extract means the same as 'a being who roams around aimlessly' ?
- (iv) Who disliked Griffin ?

Answer :

- (i) Griffin was a brilliant scientist as he carried on experiments for years to prove that human body could become invisible.
- (ii) To reach to the position of invisibility, he swallowed certain drugs.
- (iii) 'Wanderer'.
- (iv) Griffin was disliked by his landlord.

5. Eager to get away from crowded London he took a train to the village of Iping, where he booked two rooms at the local inn.

The arrival of a stranger at an inn in winter was in any case an unusual event. A stranger of such uncommon appearance set all tongues wagging, Mrs. Hall, the landlord's wife, made every effort to be friendly.

Questions :

- (i) After escaping from London, where did Griffin go ?
- (ii) What did he experience there ?
- (iii) Which phrase in the above extract means the same as 'everybody started talking about him' ?
- (iv) How did the landlord's wife behave ?

Answer :

- (i) After escaping from crowded London, he went to the village of Iping.
- (ii) His uncommon appearance attracted everybody's attention.
- (iii) 'Set all tongues wagging'.
- (iv) The landlord's wife made every effort to be friendly.

Short Answer Type Questions*Answer the following questions :***1. How was Griffin a lawless man?**

Ans. Griffin was lawless because he had committed many anti-social deeds for which he never felt guilty. He set fire to his landlord's house and ran away, he stole foodstuffs and clothes from a London store, stole other goods from a theatrical company and also stole money from a clergyman's house to pay his bills.

2. How did Griffin find himself invisible but naked in the chill January air for the second time?

Ans. As he had overslept in the big London store, when the store opened in the morning the store assistants came in. Griffin panicked and ran, chased by the assistants. He had to take off his newly found clothes to become invisible and escape, so that he found himself invisible but naked in the chill January air for the second time.

3. How did the visible man become invisible? What did he do then?

Ans. The invisible man got angry with Mrs Hall for asking an explanation for the mysterious happenings and threw off all he was wearing on his head so that he became a man without a head. Soon the constable Jaffers arrived to arrest him, but the invisible man threw off all his clothes to become invisible and, in the ensuing scuffle, knocked Jaffers unconscious and escaped.

4. Brilliant scientist though he was, Griffin was a lawless person. Does this statement approve the apprehension that science in wrong hands is Devil's Pandora Box?

Ans. Griffin was a brilliant scientist. He had discovered a rare drug that could make a human body invisible. This made Griffin an arrogant lawless person. He broke the law more than once but never for a good reason. He could dedicate his discovery to his country but he didn't do that. His lawlessness made the law helpless. All his actions prove that science in devil's hand is disastrous.

5. What did the Halls see in the scientist's room ?

Ans. One day the Halls got up early and were surprised to see that the door of the scientist's room, was open. Normally, it remained shut and locked. The Halls felt like making the use of the opportunity as they could not see anyone inside. They went inside to investigate. They saw that his clothes and bandages were lying loose in the room. Suddenly, they heard a sniffing sound although there was no one in the room. The Halls got terrified and decided to leave the scientist's room.

(G) Long Answer Type Questions*Answer the following questions :***1. Griffin misused his invention, instead of using it for the betterment of the society. Do you think moral values are important along with intellectual abilities? Discuss.**

Ans. Griffin was a scientist who had made a discovery due to which he could be invisible. But he was rather a lawless scientist, who misused a scientific discovery for his petty, selfish gains. He set his landlord's house on fire, when he asked him to vacate it. He entered the store invisible, stole clothes and food.

At another shop, he attacked the shopkeeper from behind and ran away after robbing his money. At Iping, he stole the clergyman's money from his desk and hit Mrs Hall by throwing a chair on her. He hurled blows on the police constable Mr Jaffers and knocked him down. In this way, Griffin misused his scientific discovery without making benefit to the mankind.

2. "A lawless scientist is a curse to the society." Discuss.

Ans. It is true, that a lawless scientist is a curse to the society. A true scientist uses his discoveries for the good of the society and welfare of the people. It helps the nations to progress. A lawless scientist increases the miseries and sufferings of society. In this story, we find how Griffin misuses his discovery.

He causes pain and suffering to others. He causes destruction. Suppose the nuclear weapons fall in the hands of a lawless scientist, he can cause widespread destruction. He may ruin the achievements of other scientists. That's why the leaders of the world are worried about chemical weapons falling into the hands of lawless heads of governments or terrorists. If this happens, all the scientists of the world will be doomed.

3. Griffin is a talented scientist but he misused his invention. The lesson we learn from his example is that the misuse of a scientific discovery can play havoc with humanity. Explain.

Ans. A true scientist works for the good of humanity. He wants to make man's life easier, more comfortable and enjoyable. He doesn't misuse his discoveries for personal gains or selfish ends. But Griffin, though a brilliant scientist, misuses his discovery. By his experiments, he has been able to make his body transparent and invisible. He uses his discovery to puzzle people enters store and shops unseen, robs people of their money or things and escapes. He sets fire to the house of his landlord. He steals food, sweets, wine. It shows that the misuse of a scientific discovery can disturb the peace of society. Such a scientist will use his invention for self-interest and for taking revenge upon the people around him, he won't honour the law and thus will become a lawless person. □

7. THE NECKLACE

Comprehension

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow in one or two lines each :

1. He threw around her shoulders that modest wraps they had carried whose poverty clashed with the elegance of the ball costume. She wished to hurry away...

Questions :

- (i) What precedes these fines?
- (ii) 'She' wished to hurry away. Why?

- (iii) Which word in the given extract is a synonym of 'not expensive'?
- (iv) What is the opposite of 'poverty'?

Answer :

- (i) These lines follows Matilda's success at the ball where she was idolised. Her beauty and elegance was praised by everyone.
- (ii) She, 'Matilda' did not wish to shatter the illusion of her grandeur that she had so successfully managed to convey others by putting on such a shabby wrap. So, she wished to hurry away to escape the notice of the rich women.
- (iii) 'Modest' is the synonym of 'not expensive' from the extract.
- (iv) Its opposite is 'affluence'.

2. Mme Forestier was touched and took both her hands as she replied, "Oh! My poor Matilda! Mine were false. They were not worth over five hundred francs."

Questions :

- (i) Why was Mme Forestier touched?
- (ii) "Mine were false." What does 'mine' refer to in these words?
- (iii) Find the word from the extract that means same as 'agitated'.
- (iv) What is the opposite of 'poor'?

Answer:

- (i) Mme Forestier was touched by Matilda's plight which could have been avoided if only Matilda had told the truth.
- (ii) 'Mine' refers to the diamond necklace that Mme Forestier had lent to Matilda.
- (iii) 'Touched' means the same as 'agitated' from the extract.
- (iv) Its opposite is 'rich'.

3. One evening her husband returned elated bearing in his hand a large envelope.

'Here', he said, "here is something for you."

Questions :

- (i) Why was the husband elated?
- (ii) What was the reaction from 'you'?
- (iii) Find the word from the extract that means the same as 'wrapper'.

(iv) What is the antonym of 'elated'?

Answer :

- (i) The husband was elated as he brought home an invite to the Minister's residence. He knew it would make his wife happy.
- (ii) 'You' or his wife, unexpectedly, was not the least happy and she made her displeasure very obvious.
- (iii) 'Envelope' means the same as 'wrapper' from the extract.
- (iv) Its antonym is 'sad'.

4. He went to the police and to the cab offices, and put an advertisement in the newspapers, offering a reward.

She waited all day in a state of bewilderment before this frightful disaster. Loisel returned in the evening, his face pale; he had discovered nothing.

Questions :

- (i) What did he do?
- (ii) For what did he offer a reward?
- (iii) What was the cause of Matilda's ruin?
- (iv) How could she have avoided it?

Answers :

- (i) He went to the police and to the cab office and put an advertisement in the newspapers.
- (ii) He offered a reward to find the lost necklace.
- (iii) Her weakness for admiration, pleasure and vanity became the cause of her ruin.
- (iv) Matilda could have avoided this entire suffering if she had tried to live within her means and controlled her wild desires for short-lived pleasure.

5. And she responded, "I am vexed not to have a jewel, nothing to adorn myself with. I shall have such a poverty-stricken look. I would prefer not to go to this party."

He replied, "You can wear some natural flowers. In this season they look very chic."

Questions :

- (i) Why was she vexed then?
- (ii) Which party is she referring to?
- (iii) Who is 'she' in the above lines?
- (iv) Why did she not want to go to the party?

Answers :

- (i) She was vexed because she did not have any jewel to adorn herself with.
- (ii) She is referring to the party hosted by The Minister of Public Instruction for which her husband got an invitation.
- (iii) Matilda.
- (iv) She was grieved for her poverty-stricken look. She felt that she did not have a proper Party dress and a jewel for the party.

Short Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions :

1. How did Mme Loisel now know the life of necessity?

Ans. To pay the debt of eighteen thousand francs, Loisels let go of their decent living. They lived in impoverished neighbourhood. Matilda had to cook, clean, wash, mend, bring water and bargain with the butcher and grocer. Her husband worked day and night to save every sou.

2. Why did Matilda not like to visit her rich friend?

Ans. Matilda had inferiority complex. Whenever she visited her rich friend she felt dejected and disappointed because of her poverty. She used to compare her lodgings to that of her friend's. She did not have attractive dress and jewellery to adorn herself with. That is why, she did not like to visit her rich friend.

3. Her husband is kind and loving. Do you agree? Give examples to support your answers.

Ans. He wants her to be happy. He spends a huge savings that he had saved for years to buy a gun for his hobby in order to buy a pretty dress for his wife so that she could attend a big party and enjoy it. When the costly necklace is lost, he spends all his savings and even borrow to repay it. He works day and night but never creates any ruckus with his wife.

4. What was the cause of Matilda's ruin? How could she have avoided it?

Ans. Matilda's aspiration and unrealistic dreams were the cause of her ruin. She paid due

importance to materialistic things. She could have easily avoided if she had remained within her means. She was not a practical lady and had not understood her husband's feelings.

5. Why was Mme Forestier shocked to hear Matilda's story?

Ans. One Sunday, while walking, Matilda happened to see Mme Forestier. Matilda called her, but she could not recognise Matilda because she looked much older than her age. Mme Forestier was shocked to know that Matilda had suffered so much worrying about losing her necklace of real diamonds, whereas it was false.

Long Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions :

1. What kind of person is Matilda Loisel?

Support your answer giving examples from the story "The Necklace".

Ans. Mme Loisel belongs to a family of clerks. Her existence is quite average. They live on meagre income, enough for basic needs but not to fulfill aspirations. She gets married to a clerk and is so caught up with her dreams of wealth and pleasure that she is out of touch with the truths of her real life. In order to keep up appearances just to flatter her pride, she blows up four hundred francs on a gorgeous dress. And, not contented, she goes on borrowing a necklace from her friend. And, all of this is just to impress the wealthy and the rich with her beauty and glamour (even if on loan). No doubt, her pride is flattered and her wish of fine dining, expensive dresses and jewels satisfied but at a great price. Unfortunately, the necklace has lost and the couple has to cough up their entire inheritance and borrow as well to replace it. Repayment of the debt eats away the next ten years of their youth. They live poor. All the house hold chores and cares of a life of poverty visit them. Hence, her disposition invites her doom.

2. Do you think the story is aptly titled? Justify your answer.

Ans. The whole narrative of the story 'The Necklace' revolves around a young woman Matilda, who in her foolish pride borrows a necklace inviting misery and sorrow for herself as well as for her husband. The 'necklace' has lost and the Loisels fall into a tremendous debt. They spend the next ten years of their life in paying debt for the replacement of the lost necklace. Their entire life moves around impoverished everyday saga of misery and hunger and the necklace, in fact, changes the very course of their life. Also, it is against the back drop of the necklace that Matilda's pride and dishonesty are highlighted. At the same time, the necklace serves a twist at the end as it turns out to be a fake one. The story is, hence, most aptly titled as the necklace is, in fact, the leading character of this ironic tale of desire, the doom and the tragedy.

3. The Necklace reveals that vanity is an evil. It may bring joy for short period but ultimately it leads to ruin. If you are placed in a situation similar to that of Matilda, what would you have done? Express your views.

Ans. No doubt, Matilda was proud and self-loving. She was very beautiful and charming and she was proud of her beauty. Because of her beauty, she thought that she was born in a family of clerks through the error of destiny. She felt that she was born for all delicacies and luxuries. She also felt that she was made for expensive frocks, jewels and other such things.

Therefore, we can conclude that Matilda was very vain and proud because of her beauty. When we read the story, we find out that she suffered because of her vanity. If I were placed in a situation similar to that of Matilda, I would have valued the love of my husband. I would have not insisted on buying an expensive dress to wear to the party. There would be no question of borrowing an expensive necklace from my friend. I would have saved me and my husband from all hardships which the Loisels went through.

4. The course of the Loisel's life changed due to the necklace. Comment.

Ans. The course of the Loisel's life changed due to the necklace. After replacing the lost necklace with a new one, they had to repay all the money that they had borrowed to buy the new necklace. They sent away the maid and changed their lodgings. They rented some rooms in an attic. Matilda learnt the odd work of the kitchen. She washed the dishes, soiled linen, their clothes and dishcloths.

She even took down the refuse to the street each morning and brought up the water, stopping at each landing to catch her breath. She went to the grocer's, the butcher's, and the fruiter's, with a basket on her arm, shopping, haggling to save her money. Loisel worked in the evenings, putting the books of some merchants in order. At night, he did copy work at five sous a page. This lasted for ten years, and at the end of the said period, they were finally able to repay their lenders. □

8. BHOLI

EXAM ORIENTED QUESTIONS

Comprehension

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow in one or two lines each :

1. She remembered how a few days ago their old cow, Lakshmi, had been turned out of the house and sold.

“N-n-n-n No, no-no-no,” she shouted in terror and pulled her hand away from her father's grip.

Questions :

- (i) Why did Bholi shout in terror?
- (ii) Why did she remember 'Lakshmi' ?
- (iii) What is the antonym of 'forgotten' in the extract?
- (iv) The present tense of 'sold' is

Answer :

(i) Bholi shouted in terror as she thought that her father was turning her out of her house.

(ii) She remembered her cow 'Lakshmi' because 'Lakshmi' had also been turned out of the house a few days ago.

(iii) 'Remembered' is the antonym of 'forgotten' in the extract.

(iv) Its present tense is 'sell'.

2. He said to Ramlal, “As a revenue official you are the representative of the government in the village and so you must set an example to the villagers. You must send your daughters to school.”

Questions :

- (i) Who is 'he'?
- (ii) What example does 'he' want Ramlal to set?
- (iii) What does the word 'revenue' mean?
- (iv) What part of speech is the word 'an' in the extract?

Answer :

- (i) 'He' is the Tehsildar.
- (ii) The Tehsildar wanted Ramlal to send his daughters to the village school so that other villagers will follow his example by sending their daughters to the school too.
- (iii) It means 'tax'.
- (iv) It is an article.

3. Little Sulekha could not speak till she was five, and when at last she learnt to speak, she stammered. The other children often made fun of her and mimicked her.

Questions :

- (i) What did Sulekha later on come to be known as?
- (ii) Why did children make fun of her?
- (iii) What does the word 'mimicked' mean?
- (iv) What part of speech is 'often'?

Answer :

- (i) Sulekha later on came to be known as Bholi.
- (ii) Children made fun of her because she stammered while speaking.
- (iii) The word 'mimicked' means to copy the speech of others.
- (iv) It is an adverb.

Short Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions :

1. **Bholi is a child different from others. This difference makes her an object of neglect and laughter. Elaborate.**

Ans. Society does not tolerate difference very easily. Bholi is not like others. She is slow for her age. She stammers when she speaks. Small pox leaves her all covered with pock-marks. As a result, she has to suffer a lot.

Her parents do not even bathe her. She is ignored and neglected. They take her only as a burden. People laugh at her. Children imitate her when she speaks. So, she remains silent most of the time. She has no confidence or self esteem.

2. **The chapter ‘Bholi’ highlights the discrimination against the girl child. Analyse.**

Ans. Nature does not discriminate, but society does. From time immemorial the world has discriminated against the girl child. The chapter, ‘Bholi’ throws up many such instances. Ramlal’s sons go to school and college. His daughters are not educated but married off. Her mother does not think it necessary to take Bholi’s consent for her marriage. The groom is old and lame. Still he demands dowry. Her father is ready to pay him also. It is the girl herself who raises her voice against this marriage. She is criticised and humiliated for standing up for her dignity. But she is firm and decides the course of her life.

3. **Bholi chose a dignified life of service rather than surrendering herself to a greedy old man for the rest of her life. Education provides the required stimulus to overcome one’s personal barriers. Explain the role of education in shaping the life of a child with respect to the lesson ‘Bholi’.**

Ans. Education is the answer to all social ills. Illiteracy and ignorance bring nothing but poverty, suffering and misery. Bholi lacks confidence initially because of her disabilities. She is silent, timid and weak in mind. Her

ugliness and her stammer do not let her progress. She is afraid to speak as others make fun of her.

School changes her life completely. It opens a new world of hope for her. Her teacher treats her with love and kindness. Her affection and support help Bholi to have faith in herself

4. **‘Dowry is negation of the girl’s dignity’. Discuss with reference to the story ‘Bholi’.**

Ans. A girl is an individual in her own right. Equal opportunities in life can help her become independent and strong. She is not a burdensome object to be given away with money as compensation. Thus dowry negates the girl’s dignity and self respect.

The story ‘Bholi’ shows this in a dramatic manner. Bholi is thought to be ugly and dumb by her parents. So, they are willing to pay dowry to an old man with a limp. So that he marries her. Bholi, on the other hand, refuses to marry that man. She is educated; assertive and capable of taking care of herself. She dedicates her life to service of her parents and teaching at school.

Long Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions :

1. **“Put the fear out of your heart and you will be able to speak like anyone else”. These words of encouragement from the teacher highlight that change of social attitude and encouragement can help a child like Bholi to become confident and face the world bravely. Taking help from the lesson ‘Bholi’ write how the social attitude towards Bholi made her an introvert. What should be done to help such children to face the world bravely?**

Ans. Bholi suffered a weak mind due to her accident (falling from her cot) during her infancy. She also started to stammer while speaking. Then she became ugly due to pock-marks on her face and body on contracting the smallpox disease. All these made her family and other children treat her badly, resulting in her becoming an introvert.

To help such children face the world bravely, we must treat them with love and affection and encourage them to join mainstream society. We must not mock their disabilities; instead we should give them hope that they can be as good as the other children by motivating and uplifting them.

2. God created this world but teachers create human beings. How does Bholi's teacher succeed in changing the course of her life?

Ans. Bholi was neglected by her parents on account of her looks and lack of intelligence. She was sent to school as her mother thought her to be a burden and let the teachers at school worry about her. Ironically, the teachers transformed her life completely. God created this world but teachers create human beings.

Bholi did not know what exactly a school was and what happened there, in the class when her teacher asked her name, she stammered and began to cry. She kept her head down throughout the class. The teacher was very encouraging and friendly to her and this made her gain confidence to speak.

She started seeing a ray of hope for a new life. After years of gaining education and with the help of her teacher, Bholi turned into a confident girl. She no longer stammered and could speak properly. She even had the courage to refuse marrying the lame old man because he was greedy and asked money from her father to marry her.

3. “Don’t you worry, Pitaji In your old age I will serve you and mother”. Through this statement the narrator wants to highlight the moral values Bholi imbibed with. Based on the reading of the lesson, what made Bholi aware of her rights and how did she use them?

Ans. Bholi became an introvert child who lacked confidence. She was neglected and even made fun of due to her appearance and lack of intelligence. Years of education made her bold and confident. She got an aim in her life. When she refused to marry greedy Bishamber, her father became worried. She assured her

father not to worry and promised that she would take care of him and her mother in their old age.

She told that she would teach in the school where she learnt so much. During her education Bholi's teacher made her aware of her rights as well as duties. She faced the challenge of rejecting greedy Bishamber with determination and confidence. Thus she protected her self-respect and integrity.

4. Write a character sketch of Bholi.

Ans. Bholi's real name was Sulekha but she was called Bholi, the simpleton as she was a backward child. She started speaking only when she turned five but she stammered when she spoke and as a result she was always mimicked or made fun of by the other children. Therefore, Bholi talked very little.

Bholi did not know what exactly a school was and what happened there, in the class when her teacher asked her name, she stammered and began to cry. She kept her head down throughout the class. The teacher was very encouraging and friendly to her and this made her gain confidence to speak. She started seeing a ray of hope for a new life.

After years of gaining education and with the help of her teacher, Bholi turned into a confident girl. She no longer stammered and could speak properly. She even had the courage to refuse marrying the lame old man because he was greedy and asked money from her father to marry her. On seeing her father worried about her marriage, she said that he need not worry as she would teach in the same school where she learnt so much and would take care of him and her mother in their old age.

□

9. THE BOOK THAT SAVED THE EARTH

EXAM ORIENTED QUESTIONS

Comprehension

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow in one or two lines each :

1. Yes, yes I understand now. Since Earth creatures are always eating, the place in which you find yourselves is undoubtedly a crude refreshment stand.

Questions :

- (i) Who is the speaker of these words?
- (ii) What was considered by the speaker 'a crude refreshment stand' ?
- (iii) Write the opposite of 'crude' ?
- (iv) What are the Earth creatures always doing?

Answer :

- (i) 'Think-Tank' is the speaker of these words.
- (ii) He considered books as a crude refreshment stand.
- (iii) 'Finished'.
- (iv) The Earth creatures are always eating.

2. A hundred million miles away from Mars. Order the invasion fleet to evacuate the entire planet of Mars. We are heading for Alpha Centauri, a hundred million miles away.

Questions :

- (i) Where were they heading?,
- (ii) Why are they going there?
- (iii) Which planet do Think-Tank and other Martians escape to?
- (iv) How far was it from Mars?

Answers :

- (i) They were heading for Alpha Centauri a hundred million miles away from Mars.
- (ii) They were going to evacuate the entire planet of Mars.
- (iii) Alpha Centauri
- (iv) It was hundred million miles away from Mars.

3. I wish to be placed in communication with our manned space probe to that ridiculous little planet we are going to put under our generous rulership.

Questions :

- (i) Who is the speaker here? Which is the little planet he is referring to?
- (ii) What does he intend to do?
- (iii) Who tried to invade the earth in the twenty-first century?
- (iv) Who is Think-Tank?

Answers :

- (i) Think-Tank. He is referring to planet Earth.
- (ii) He is a Martian, who along with other Martians, is planning to invade the Earth,
- (iii) The Martians tried to invade earth. They wanted to include earth in his domain.
- (iv) He is an arrogant, self-praising ruler of Mars.

Short Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions :

1. Why was the twentieth century called the 'era of books' ?

Ans. The twentieth century was called the 'era of books' because they were the encyclopaedias of knowledge. There were books for everything-from ant-eaters to Zulus. Books were used to educate people and teach them. In fact, books were a very important part of life of the people.

2. How did Think-Tank misinterpret innocent nursery rhymes ?

Ans. Think-Tank heard Omega transcribe certain nursery rhymes like 'Mistress Mary', 'The Cat and the Fiddle and 'Humpty-Dumpty had a great fall'. On hearing those poems 'Think Tank' concluded that the earthlings were superior to them and in fact planning an attack on them.

3. How does Think-Tank compare the Martians with the people on the Earth ? What does he call the Earth mockingly ?

Ans. Think-Tank feels that Martians are more beautiful than the people on the Earth. The Earthlings have a smaller head when compared to the Martians who have great and mighty balloon brain which has made them more cleverer and intelligent than the Earthlings. Earthlings are fond of eating so they always keep eating sandwiches. Think-Tank mockingly calls the Earth a meaningless place where the people are not so intelligent and brave like the Martians and himself. So, he decided to capture the Earth.

4. What guesses are made by Think-Tank about the books found on earth ?

Ans. Think-Tank makes guesses that the books are the kind of crude refreshment stand and calls it a sandwich, or a communication satellite. On Noodle's suggestion, chemical vitamins are taken which enable Omega to transcribe the code of nursery rhymes on 'Mistress Mary', 'Humpty-Dumpty' and 'The Cat and the Fiddle'. All the poems make Think-Tank come to conclusion that Earthlings have a high level of civilization and that they have been targeted by them and so decides to escape from Mars.

5. What steps did the Crew take to decipher the code in the sandwich?

Ans. Martians reached the library in the process of invasion of earth. They had never seen books before that They did not understand where they are and what are the things placed in different racks. Firstly they thought that they were sandwiches and tried to eat them. Then they misunderstood that Sandwiches are used as some sort of communication device. Later they took them as eye communication and not ear communication, and understand that they had to take vitamins to understand all these codes.

Long Answer Type Questions

Answer the following questions :

1. Justify the title 'The Book that Saved the Earth'.

Ans. Martians planned to attack on earth. The ruler of Mars, Think-Tank instructed one of his Martian, Noodle to gather information about Earth. He saw that other three crew members-Captain Omega, Lieutenant Iota and Sergeant Oop found some books in Centerville Public Library. A book named 'Mother Goose' contained nursery rhymes. Omega managed to read some nursery rhymes like 'Mistress Mary', 'Humpty-Dumpty', etc. Think Tank misinterpreted the rhymes. He was shocked to discover that metals could be grown in fields. He also thought that earthlings are intelligent enough in warfare and have advanced technology to grow high exposures. On seeing the image of Humpty-Dumpty, he thought its head resembling that of his own. He feared

invasion on Mars by earthlings. So he decided to migrate to Alpha Centauri, one hundred million miles away from Mars. The Martians fear the book till date. Hence, we can say that the title 'The Book that Saved the Earth' is apt.

2. Historians speak highly about books. How can books help you in preventing a catastrophe?

Ans. The Historian is placed at the twenty-fifth century. He is trying to clear himself about twentieth century. He calls the time as the Era of the Book and speaks highly about the books. According to him books control all life. Books teach children. Books teach people now to and when to and where to and why to. They illustrate, educate punctuate and even decorate the life of the people.

According to Historian, only the books saved the earth from Martian invasion. For the Martians had misunderstood the meaning of the poems and got frightened of them. So they left the earth in a hurry and even evacuated the Mars and headed over to Alpha Centauri. Even in our day to day life, we get all our solutions from books whether—it is health related or anything else. So we can say that books help us in preventing a catastrophe.

3. In what ways does Think-Tank misinterpret innocent nursery rhymes as a threat to the Martians?

Ans. The old, dusty book of nursery rhymes was 'Mother Goose'. Think-Tank wanted to invade Earth. He had sent Probe One to get more information about the Earthlings. The crew enters a library. There, after taking vitamins, they take out 'Mother Goose' and decipher the rhymes.

The rhymes are misinterpreted as threats by Think-Tank. After listening to the first rhyme, 'Mistress Mary,' he concluded that Earthlings had discovered how to combine agriculture and mining. The second rhyme, 'Hey Diddle Diddle, seemed to suggest to him that the Earthlings might be launching an interplanetary attack on millions of cows.

The third rhyme, 'Humpty Dumpty' wherein Humpty had a great fall and its picture that resembled him threatened him and his planet Mars. He got so scared that he dropped the idea of invading Earth, and escaped to Alpha Centauri. Thus a book of nursery rhymes saved Earth from Martian invasion.

4. Draw a pen-portrait of Great and Mighty Think-Tank. Was he really the most powerful and intelligent person in the universe?

Ans. Great and Mighty Think-Tank has been presented as the most powerful and the most intelligent creature in the whole universe. At least Noodle and other associates think so. Powerful, of course, he was. After all, he was the Commander-in-Chief and the ruler of Mars and her two moons. He was feared,

pampered, flattered and obeyed. No one could afford to disagree with him. Disobeying him was totally out of question. Only Noodle, through his diplomatic and humble pleadings could request him to give some suggestions.

It is rather difficult to digest that Think-Tank was the most intelligent creature in the whole universe. He was vain and haughty. His shallowness was quite apparent. He didn't have the capacity to go deep into things. Nor did he digest his criticism. His views about books were totally ridiculous. To him, books were really sandwiches, the staple diet of the Earthlings. □