

EAZYSALE.IN – INDIA’S LEADING ONLINE BOOKSTORE

Section – A Reading Skills [22 Marks]

Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages

Question 1.

Read the following text. (12)

Arthur lay in his cabin, still trying to piece together the events of the last few hours. He had watched his home planet of Earth be demolished to make way for a hyperspace bypass, been saved by his friend Ford, and then whisked away on a ship that was powered by an “infinite improbability drive.”

It was all too much for him.

Just then, Ford stuck his head around the door.

“Hey, Earthman,” he said, “come and have a look-at this.”

Arthur stumbled after him down a corridor and into the ship’s control room. He gazed in amazement at the banks of controls and flashing lights. In the center of the room was a large console covered in buttons and switches, and in the middle of the console was a small, white mouse.

“What’s that?” asked Arthur.

“That’s the ship’s computer,” said Ford. .

Arthur stared at the mouse. “That’s a computer?” he said.

“Yup,” said Ford. “Five-dimensional, biologically-based, super intelligent, and in the form of a white lab mouse. Pretty neat, huh?”

“I don’t know,” said Arthur. “I don’t think I really understand anything anymore. Why is a mouse the ship’s computer?”

“It’s a long story,” said Ford. “But the short version is that the mice built the Earth as a giant computer to figure out the Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe, and Everything. Then they ran out of money and had to destroy it to make way for a hyperspace bypass. So now they’re using the Heart of Gold to finish the calculation.”

Arthur was about to say something, but at that moment the ship’s intercom crackled to life.

“Good evening, Heart of Gold,” said a smooth, computerized voice. “This is Eddie, your shipboard computer. I’m feeling a bit depressed today. Would you like me to sing you a song?”

“Oh, not again,” groaned Ford.

“Eddie, would you mind shutting up?” said Arthur.

Arthur sighed and leaned back against the console, trying to make sense of everything. But as he closed his eyes, he heard a voice inside his head.

“Hello?” it said.

Arthur jumped, startled. “Who’s there?” he said.

“It’s me,” said the voice. “Marvin.”

“Marvin?” said Arthur. “Who’s Marvin?”

“The Paranoid Android,” said the voice.

Arthur looked around, but he didn’t see anyone. “Where are you?” he said.

“I’m down here,” said the voice.

Arthur looked down and saw a small, metal figure shuffling across the floor. It was about three feet tall, with a round head and a body that looked like it had been cobbled together from spare

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parts. Its eyes were a dull red, and its voice was a monotone.

“I’ve been waiting for someone to talk to me for over two million years,” said Marvin.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

(i) Select the option that classifies Arthur’s confusion about drastic events such as the destruction of his home planet and the introduction of new technologies correctly. (1)

- (a) Routine and boredom
- (b) Adventure and excitement
- (c) Loss and change
- (d) Calm and relaxation

Answer:

- (c) Loss and change

(ii) What is the significance of the white lab mouse in the control room of the Heart of Gold spaceship? (1)

- (a) It is the captain of the ship
- (b) It serves as the ship’s computer
- (c) It is a pet of the crew
- (d) It is used for scientific experiments

Answer:

- (b) It serves as the ship’s computer

(iii) Share evidence from the text, in about 40 words to support the view that the writer’s writing style is descriptive and humourous. (2)

Answer:

The writing style of the author is descriptive as well as humorous. The description of the room and the computer is so vivid that we can imagine the setting and the unconventional form of the ship’s computer. Further, Ford’s reaction to Eddie singing songs suggests that Eddie frequently offers to sing songs and annoy the crew. The humour comes from the fact that a computer is attempting to sing a song which is an unexpected and absurd situation.

(iv) Complete the sentence appropriately with a characteristic or its description.

Based on the information given in the excerpt, one can infer that the mice who built the Earth are (1)

Answer:

highly intelligent and technologically advanced as they built the Earth as a giant computer

(v) Select the option that is similar in meaning to Ford’s expression , “Pretty neat, huh?”. (1)

- (a) Easy , isn’t it?
- (b) Could be worse, no?
- (c) Impressive, yes?
- (d) Too difficult for you?

Answer:

- (c) Impressive, yes?

(vi) Explain, in about 40 words, why the name “The Paranoid Android” is considered ironic. (1)

Answer:

The name ‘The Paranoid Android’ is ironic because it is unexpected for a robot to exhibit human-

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like emotions such as paranoia. Further, robots are often thought of as logical and unemotional, whereas the name ‘paranoid’ implies irrational fear and anxiety.

(vii) In the line, “... a body that looked like it had been cobbled together from spare parts...”, what comparison does the word “cobbled” refer to? (2)

Answer:

In the given line, the word ‘cobbled’ refers to the comparison with cobblers, who take scraps of leather and stitch them together to create a shoe, in the same way in which the body of Marvin was put together/ assembled together in a rough and haphazard manner or using spare parts, rather than being a cohesive whole.

(viii) How does the following impact the reader even though they know Marvin is just an android? ‘I’ve been waiting for someone to talk to me for over two million years,’ said Marvin. Answer in about 40 words. (2)

Answer:

The given statement by Marvin, an android, humanises the character of the machine by evoking a sense of loneliness and isolation that is relatable to the reader. It also emphasises the theme of alienation and lack of communication between beings in the vastness of space. This creates a sense of sympathy towards Marvin and also raises questions about the meaning and value of existence, regardless of whether one is organic or synthetic.

(ix) Read the five headlines (a) – (e), given below. (1)

- (a) Humanity’s Journey Witnessed By a Depressed Robot
- (b) Hitchhiking Through Space: A Comical Take on The End of The World
- (c) New Study Finds Aliens Living Among Us
- (d) Groundbreaking Technology Will Soon Enable Time Travel
- (e) Intergalactic Travel via. New Infinite Improbability Drive

Identify the option that displays the headline/s that DOES/ DO NOT correspond with occurrences in the passage.

- (a) Only (a)
- (b) (b) (c) and (d)
- (c) Only (e)
- (d) (a) and (e)

Answer:

- (b) (b), (c) and (d)

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Question 2.

Read the following text. (10)

1. In recent years, there has been a surge in both group and solo travel among young adults in India. A survey conducted among young adults aged 18-25 aimed to explore the reasons behind their travel preferences and recorded the percentage variation for 10 common points that influence travel choices.

2. Among those who prefer solo travel, the most common reason cited was the desire for independence and freedom (58%), followed closely by the opportunity for introspection and self-

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discovery (52%). Additionally, solo travellers appreciated the ability to customize their itinerary to their preferences (44%) and the chance to meet new people on their own terms (36%).

3. On the other hand, those who prefer group travel often cited the desire for socialising and making new friends (61%) as their primary reason. Group travel also provided a sense of security and safety in unfamiliar places (52%) and allowed for shared experiences and memories with others (48%). Additionally, group travellers enjoyed the convenience of having pre-planned itineraries and organised transportation (38%).

4. Interestingly, both groups had similar levels of interest in exploring new cultures and trying new experiences (40% for solo travellers, 36% for group travellers). Similarly, both groups valued the opportunity to relax and escape from the stresses of everyday life (36% for solo travellers, 32% for group travellers).

5. However, there were also some notable differences between the two groups. For example, solo travellers placed a higher priority on budget-friendly travel options (38%) compared to group travellers (24%). Conversely, group travellers were more likely to prioritise luxury and comfort during their travels (28%) compared to solo travellers (12%).

6. Overall, the survey results suggest that both group and solo travel have their own unique advantages and appeal to different individuals, based on their preferences and priorities.

Answer the following questions, based on given passage.

(i) Infer two possible ways that the survey, mentioned in Paragraph (1), could be beneficial. Answer in about 40 words. (2)

Answer:

The information given in the Paragraph 1 of the given passage can help travel companies to tailor their services to meet the preferences and expectations of young adult travellers, leading to increased customer satisfaction and loyalty. Further, it can provide insights for the development of new travel packages and itineraries that cater to the specific needs and interests of young adone and when traveling in a group, they value socialising and making new friends.

(ii) Which travel choice point of the survey would influence tour operators to incorporate group dinners, social events, and shared accommodations in their itinerary? (1)

- (a) Freedom to customise itinerary
- (b) Luxury and comfort
- (c) Security and safety
- (d) Desire for making new friends

Answer:

(d) Desire for making new friends

(iii) What do the top choices in the survey, for travelling solo and in a group, suggest about young adults? (1)

Answer:

The top choices in the survey, for travelling solo and in a group, suggest that young adult travellers value independence and freedom when travelling alone and when travelling in a group, they value socialising and making new friends.

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(iv) Identify the solo traveller from the following three travellers (1)

- (a) Reshma- I don't want to keep hunting for rickshaws or taxis. A pre-booked vehicle is perfect.
- (b) Nawaz-I'm happy sharing a room in a hostel. I don't need hotel accommodation.
- (c) Deepak-I'm not worried about my well-being, even while exploring remote areas.

Answer:

(b) Nawaz is the solo traveller as he is looking for budget friendly options. The other two cases of Reshma and Deepak present group traveller for Reshma need organised transport and Deepak gives great important to security and safety.

(v) Which of the following is an example of an opportunity for self-discovery, as mentioned in Paragraph 2? (1)

- (a) Trying new cuisine
- (b) Hiring a tour guide
- (c) Purchasing local artifacts
- (d) Advance booking travel tickets

Answer:

(a) Trying new cuisine

(vi) How might the differences in budget priorities between solo and group travellers impact the types of accommodations and activities offered by the travel industry in India? (2)

Answer:

The difference between the solo and group travellers would allow the travel industry to cater to budget-conscious solo travellers. For this, the industry may need to provide more affordable accommodation options such as hostels and budget hotels. For group travellers, the industry may need to focus on offering more luxury accommodations and experiences that cater to their desire for comfort and convenience.

(vii) Complete the sentence appropriately.

The similarities in the percentage of both solo and group travellers who are interested in exploring new cultures and trying new experiences may be due to (1)

Answer:

a shared desire for adventure and a willingness to step outside of their comfort zones

(viii) State TRUE or FALSE.

The title 'Wanderlust: The Solo Travel Trend Among Young Adults in India' is appropriate for this passage. (1)

Answer:

FALSE

The passage is not about solo travel trend but more of solo vs group travel debate among young adults in India.

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Section – B
Creative Writing Skills [18 Marks]

Note : All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.
Question 3.

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Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words.

A. Bali High Public School has recently created CureGreen, a dedicated area for local medicinal herbs and shrubs, adjacent to the flower garden, on campus. As Rachel Tiwari, Captain of the Eco-Club, draft a notice for the school notice board informing students of Classes XI and XII about a guided walk through CureGreen post assembly on Friday, 10th July. Invite care-giver applications for CureGreen. (4)

OR

B. You are the Secretary of the neighbourhood Watch Schema -jcioanapui, Sector D-3 Society. Draft a notice for the society notice board informing residents about the change of personnel, Head Security, Gate 2 and share necessary details. Also, include the news of installation of the much awaited security camera on the Eastern periphery of the Society.

Answer:

A.

Bali High School

NOTICE

1st July, 20XX

Guided Walk Through-Curegreen'

All the students of Class XI and XII are hereby informed that our school has recently created Curegreen- a dedicated area for local medicinal herbs and shrubs adjacent to the flower garden. For the same, a guided tour has been organised on Friday, 10th July after assembly. Further, the school invites application of all who could volunteer to become care-givers for the dedicated garden. Interested students may submit their application for the position to Ms. Savi by 15th July. For further details, please contact the undersigned.

Roshni Tiwari

(Captain; Eco-Club)

OR

B.

Jastinapur, Sector D-3 Society

NOTICE

1st April, 20XX

Change of Personnel

All the residents are hereby informed that there has been as change of Personnel, Head Security for Gate 2. The details of the new security personnel are given below

- Name : Mr. Rajvir Shah
- Organisation : XYZ Securities
- Contact number : 98XXXXXXXX

Further, the society has acquired the new security camera system for the Eastern periphery of the society which will be installed by 3rd April.

ABC

(Secretary, Neighbourhood Watch Scheme)

Question 4.

Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words.

A. You are the Student Head, Cultural Affairs at M.K. Sr. Sec. School. Your school is organising

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a 2-day Yoga camp over the weekend for parents of the school students. Create an invitation inviting the school parents for this Yoga camp. Share information about the camp organisers and include other necessary details.

OR

B. Smt. Leelavati Khatri, your grandmother has received an invitation from her childhood friend residing at a distance in the same city. The invite is for the blessing ceremony and celebratory dinner marking the birth of her granddaughter. Your grandmother wishes to attend the event but would need to be accompanied by a family member to assist her with her wheelchair. Create an appropriate reply, accepting this invitation, on behalf of your grandmother.

Answer:

A.

**The Principal, Staff and Students of
M.K. Sr. Sec. School
invite you to a**

2-DAY YOGA CAMP

organised by

PATANJALI
for Parents **LearnCBSE.in**

on

Saturday and Sunday, 9th and 10th April, 20XX
from 8:00 am to 10:00 am in the School Grounds

RSVP
Principal
M.K. Sr. Sec. School
Contact: 98XXXXXXXX

B. XYZ Apartments
Delhi
1st April, 20XX

Dear Rajjo

I hope this letter finds you in best of your spirit and health. I am doing good here. I received your letter inviting me to the blessing ceremony and celebratory dinner marking the birth for your granddaughter. My heartiest congratulations to the new parents and all my love and blessing to the bundle of joy. I am delighted to hear the news and would love to be the part of the festivities. I will come to your residential address on 12th April at 1:00 pm along with my granddaughter as you know I cannot walk and need assistance of a family member.

With all my love

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Question 5.

Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120 – 150 words.

A. You are Damanjit Singh, a fresh graduate of film-making (BFA), from. JTTI, Chandigarh. You saw the given advertisement in the newspaper and wish to apply for the position advertised.

Write a letter to Mili Johar Arts, along with your bio-data, expressing your interest in the advertised post. (5)




Mili Johar ARTS
**ASSISTANT DIRECTORS
wanted**
For Feature Film
Opportunity for Aspiring Assistant Directors
WHO DO WE NEED?
Freshers, experienced, both welcome
REQUIRED - Degree/Diploma in Film Making
Skills : Camera handling, functional knowledge of Marathi,
exceptional communication skills and ability to multi-task

Please send your resumes to- The Johar House, Offices 05-06,
(Latest by 23rd July, 2023) Diyali Hill, Mumbai

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OR

B. Despite being an essential component of road safety infrastructure, many people do not respect zebra crossings and fail to follow traffic rules, which results in hazardous situations on the roads. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily, sharing your concern, and examining the reasons for such behaviour. Provide suggestions for spreading awareness of rules and etiquettes involved, and ways to ensure adherence. Use the given cues along with your own ideas to compose this letter. You are Soma Baruah, a concerned city resident.

- For awareness
- general public/educational institutions
- how?-in person/social media

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- Dire consequences – self and others
- Adherence
 - fines and penalties
 - revoking driving licenses
 - strengthening traffic police force – monitoring resources and technology

Answer:

A.

XYZ Colony

Mumbai

22nd July, 20XX

Mili Johar Arts

The Johar House

Office 05-06

Diyali Hill, Mumbai

Subject : Application for the post of Assistant Directors

Sir/Ma'am

In response to your advertisement in The Express Times' dated 21st July, 20XX for the post of Assistant Directors, I want to offer my candidature. I feel that my qualifications make me a suitable candidate for this position, i am a fresh graduate in Film Making from JTTI, Chandigarh with some internship experience assisting the director Mr. ABC of PQR Productions, a local production house in Punjab. During my internships and the knowledge that I gained in my graduation, I have learned camera handling for beginners. I also have functional knowledge of Marathi, exceptional communication skills and the ability to multi-task.

If I am shortlisted, you may call me for an interview on any date as per your convenience. I shall be able to join my duties in one month if appointed. I hope for a positive reply.

Thanking you

Yours sincerely
Damanjit Singh
Enclosed – Bio data

Resume

Name : Damanjit Singh

Father Name : Mr. Gurvinder Singh

Date of Birth : 11th July, 2002

Nationality : Indian

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Permanent Address : Indra Nagar, Bangalore
Educational qualification

Name of the Exam	Institute	Year	Percentage/GPA
BFA (Film Making)	JTTI, Chandigarh	20XX	73%
Senior Secondary	CBSE	20XX	84%
Secondary	CBSE	20XX	87%

Interests & Hobbies : Reading, singing, watching films and documentaries

Languages Known : Hindi, English and Marathi

Work Experience : Fresher

References : 1. Mr. Ravi Sharan Singh Manager, HOD, JIIT Chandigarh 2. Mrs. Saakshi Sharma, Director, ABC Movies

OR

B. Nehru Colony

Indore

1st April, 20XX

The Editor

The Times of India

Delhi – 110002

Subject : Concerns over the flouting of traffic rules

Sir/Ma'am

Through the columns of your esteemed newspaper, I would like to draw the attention of the concerned authorities to express my concern over the failure to follow traffic rules and use of zebra crossings.

It is a matter of grave concern for the nation that despite being an essential component of the road safety infrastructure, zebra crossings are seldom used and traffic rules hardly followed. There is a lack of awareness of the significance of zebra crossings and traffic rules, ignorance of etiquettes involved, and the lack of enforcement of existing laws related to road safety. As a result, there is an increased risk of accidents, injuries, and fatalities, disruption of traffic flow and damage to public property.

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Given that the number of road-related accidents are increasing daily, we need to take immediate steps to curb the situation. Public campaigns, educational programs in schools, colleges, and other public places should be carried out. Further, informative pamphlets, posters, and videos on traffic rules and etiquettes highlighting the consequences of not following traffic rules and respect for zebra crossings should be distributed in person and on social media to make people aware of the situation. The government needs to impose penalties and fines to those who violate traffic rules and do not respect zebra crossings, and revoke driving licenses if necessary. Strengthening traffic police and providing them with the necessary resources and technology to monitor and enforce traffic laws can go a long way to solve the problem at hand.

I urge the concerned authorities to take immediate action towards road safety.

Thanking you
Yours sincerely
Soma Baruah (Concerned City Resident)

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Question 6.

Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120 – 150 words.

A. You are Sohail Hassan of Class XII-B. Write an article for your school magazine, sharing the importance of young adults, as volunteers in one’s local community, the need to do so and the benefits involved. Use the given cues along with your own ideas to compose this article. (5)

Importance of personal growth + community development

Benefits : For self : new skills, experiences, a sense of purpose

For community : positive impact

What are the ways one could get involved?

OR

B. The R.W.A (Resident Welfare Association), Nandipura -II launched a volunteer programme for the young adults in and around the neighbourhood, on 18th January, 2023. As Sunitha. J, the local correspondent of the neighbourhood newsletter write a report covering this event. Support your ideas with outline cues given below to craft your report.

- which volunteer programme? – purpose of the launch event- it’s importance
- activities that took place-who attended?
- any key messages delivered?

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- how are young adults encouraged to join the volunteer program?
- any resources and information provided to attendees?
- any insight into follow-up activities planned?
- what impact is expected to be achieved in the community?

Answer:

A. Importance of Young Adults

by- Sohail Hassan, XII B

The present world has already accepted that the young adults are of crucial significance to the growth and development of the world. In doing so, we always look at the larger picture and forget that they bring great positive change in the local community. However, many young adults do not voluntarily participate in the local community thinking that it does not benefit them.

Young adults of the world do not know that volunteering in the local community is a valuable experience for them. It helps them develop new skills and interests which benefit them as well as the community as a whole. It also allows an individual to gain practical experience in a variety of areas such as event planning, communication and leadership which can be useful in future job applications while being personally fulfilling. Further, it provides opportunities for personal growth and self-reflection while helping the individual gain a deeper understanding of own values and beliefs. It is not just a great way to give back to the community but also makes a positive difference in the lives of those around. It creates a sense of community and strengthens social bonds by allowing a person to learn more about the needs and challenges faced by others in their community.

Thus, volunteering in one's local community is a rewarding experience that can benefit both the individual and the community.

OR

B. The Young Adult Volunteer Programme

by- Sunitha. J, Local Correspondent

19th January, 20XX, Delhi: The R.W.A (Resident Welfare Association), Nandipura-II launched a volunteer programme for the young adults in and around the neighbourhood on 18th January, 2023. The volunteer programme headed by Professor M.K. Khanduja aimed at making the youth of the locality aware of the importance and significance of their volunteering activities for their own benefit as well as the benefit of the community.

The event started in the community hall of the locality at 11:00 am and went on till evening. It began with a inaugural diya lighting by the head of the program and moved on discussing the importance of volunteering by young adults in the present world. A presentation highlighting the significance of action on the part of the young adults encouraged many young minds to become part of the volunteer program.

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The event also saw a discussion in the area that the youth will work in along with how growth and development will be furthered. A colorful leaflet highlighting the same was distributed among all and also sent to all households. Many insights and great remarks on the part of the youngsters was what made the programme commendable.

The success of the event can be measured by its impact on those present. One of the participants mentioned how the program was very much required to make the youth aware of their role and reasonability towards the society. Another person mentioned how the RWA had undertaken a good cause and wished them all the success.

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Section – C Literature and Supplementary [40 Marks]

Question 7.

Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. (6)

A.

And such too is the grandeur of the dooms
We have imagined for the mighty dead;
All lovely tales that we have heard or read:
An endless fountain of immortal drink,
Pouring unto us from the heaven’s brink. (A Thing of Beauty)

(i) Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract? (1)

- (a) The beauty of nature
- (b) The power of imagination
- (c) The immortality of art and literature
- (d) The inevitability of death

Answer:

(c) The immortality of art and literature

(ii) State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE, with reference to the extract.

By referring to the dead as “mighty”, the poet emphasizes their importance and the power they exerted on the people. (1)

Answer:

FALSE. The dead are referred to as ‘mighty’ in the poem because they have achieved greatness in their lifetime. They may have contributed to society in a significant way or achieved great things in their respective fields. By referring to them as ‘mighty,’ the poet emphasises their importance and the positive influence they have had on the world.

(iii) Complete the sentence appropriately.

The “endless fountain of immortal drink” is an apt analogy for the tales of the mighty dead because (1)

Answer:

just as a fountain constantly pours forth water, the tales of the mighty dead pour forth endless inspiration and wisdom for the living

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(iv) The use of the word “brink” in the extract suggests that the immortality that is being poured onto us is on the verge of overflowing.

This creates a powerful image of (1)

Answer:

abundance

(v) Based on the poem rhyme scheme evident in lines 2-5, of the given extract, which word would rhyme with line 1 ?

said think tombs

Answer:

tombs

(vi) Select the option that is NOT true about the lack of punctuation at the end of line 1 in the extract.

(a) Creates a sense of continuity and flow that connects the line with the second line.

(b) Encourages the reader to continue reading seamlessly without any pause.

(c) Creates a sense of anticipation and expectation for the reader.

(d) Encourages a revisit to the ideas in the preceding lines. (1)

Answer:

(d) Creates a sense of anticipation and expectation for the reader.

OR

B. ...I looked again at her, wan, pale
as a late winter’s moon and felt that old
familiar ache, my childhood’s fear,
but all I said was, see you soon,
Amma,
all I did was smile and smile and
smile (My mother at Sixty-six)

(i) What is the speaker’s emotional state when looking at her mother? (1)

(a) Confused and disoriented

(b) Nostalgic and longing

(c) Empathetic and understanding

(d) Fearful and apprehensive

Answer:

(d) Fearful and apprehensive

(ii) What does the use of the word ‘but’ at the beginning of the line, ‘ but all I said..’, suggest? (1)

Answer:

The word ‘but’ at the beginning of the line ‘but all I said..’ suggests a contrast between the speaker’s internal emotional response and her outward behaviour.

(iii) Select the word that WILL NOT complete the sentence appropriately.

The description of the mother as ‘wan, pale / as a late winter’s moon’ creates a vivid image of (1)

(a) vulnerability

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- (b) sensitivity
- (c) frailty
- (d) mortality

Answer:

- (b) sensitivity

(iv) State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE. The poetic device used in the line ‘pale as a winter’s moon’ is the same as the one used in the line ‘the winter wind wistfully wailed at night’. (1)

Answer:

FALSE- The poem’s line holds a simile whereas the other line is an example of alliteration (- w) sound.

(v) What message do these lines highlight, in the context of familial relationships, and the speaker’s sense of anxiety and fear at the prospect of losing her mother? (1)

Answer:

The poem highlights the importance of cherishing and appreciating the people we love while we still can.

(vi) Complete the sentence appropriately.

The repetition of the word ‘smile’ suggests that (1)

Answer:

the speaker is trying to hold back her emotions and remain composed despite the pain she feels at parting from her mother.

Question 8.

Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given. (4)

A. Climate change is one of the most hotly contested environmental debates of our time. Will the West Antarctic ice sheet melt entirely? Will the Gulf Stream ocean current be disrupted? Will it be the end of the world as we know it? Maybe. Maybe not. Either way, Antarctica is a crucial element in this debate — not just because it’s the only place in the world, which has never sustained a human population and therefore remains relatively ‘pristine’ in this respect; but more importantly, because it holds in its ice-cores half-million-year-old carbon records trapped in its layers of ice. (Journey to the End of the Earth)

(i) How does the absence of a human population in Antarctica make it significant in the climate change debate? (1)

Answer:

The absence of a human population in Antarctica makes it significant in the climate change debate as this makes it an important reference point for understanding the effects of human activities on the environment and the potential impacts of climate change.

(ii) Why is ‘climate change’ described as a ‘hotly contested’ issue in the extract provided?

This is so because there (1)

- (a) is universal agreement on the causes and implications of climate change
- (b) is a planned path ahead about how to address climate change
- (c) are differing views on the causes and implications of climate change
- (d) are minimal reports of fresh threats to climate change

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Answer:

(c) are differing views on the causes and implications of climate change

(iii) The analogy of a time machine is an appropriate analogy for the role of carbon records in the study of climate change because (1)

Answer:

just like a time machine would allow us to observe past events, carbon records allow us to observe past climate conditions

(iv) Give one reason why the writing style of the extract can be called factual and informative. (1)

Answer:

The writing style of the extract can be called factual and informative because the writer presents information in a straightforward and objective manner avoiding the use of personal opinion.

OR

B. In other words, the Tiger King is dead.

The manner of his death is a matter of extraordinary interest. It can be revealed only at the end of the tale. The most fantastic aspect of his demise was that as soon as he was born, astrologers had foretold that one day the Tiger King would actually have to die. “The child will grow up to become the warrior of warriors, hero of heroes, champion of champions.

But...” they bit their lips and swallowed hard. When compelled to continue, the astrologers came out with it. “This is a secret which should not be revealed at all. And yet we are forced to speak out. The child born under this star will one day have to meet its death.”

(The Tiger King)

(i) Complete the sentence appropriately.

The author’s purpose in using foreshadowing is to (1)

Answer:

create a sense of approaching doom and use it as a tool to heighten the reader’s curiosity and interest in the story

(ii) In the given extract, what emotion were the astrologers feeling when they ‘bit their lips and swallowed hard’? (1)

(a) Humiliation

(b) Disbelief

(c) Grief

(d) Unease

Answer:

(d) Unease

(iii) Which trait are the astrologers lauding when they say ‘warrior of warriors, hero of heroes, champion of champions’? (1)

Answer:

When the astrologers say ‘warrior of warriors, hero or heroes, champion of champions’, they are lauding the child’s bravery, heroism and leadership.

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(iv) How is the line, ‘the most fantastic aspect of his demise’, an example of contrast? (1)

Answer:

The given line is ironic because the word ‘fantastic’ is usually associated with something positive or exciting while the word ‘demise’ suggests something negative or tragic.

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Question 9.

Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. (6)

A. Usually, when school began, there was a great bustle, which could be heard out in the street, the opening and closing of desks, lessons repeated in unison, very loud, with our hands over our ears to understand better, and the teacher’s great ruler rapping on the table. But now it was all so still! I had counted on the commotion to get to my desk without being seen; but, of course, that day everything had to be as quiet as Sunday morning. Through the window I saw my classmates, already in their places, and M. Hamel walking up and down with his terrible iron ruler under his arm. I had to open the door and go in before everybody. You can imagine how I blushed and how frightened I was. (The Last Lesson)

(i) List any two sensory details present in this extract. (1)

Answer:

The two sensory details mentioned in the extract are

- the sounds of the opening and closing of desks
- the loud lessons repeated in unison

(ii) Why does the protagonist feel anxious about entering the classroom on this particular day? (1)

(1)

(a) The classmates have started the lesson

(b) The teacher is in a bad mood

(c) The classroom is too quiet

(d) The protagonist is running

Answer:

(a) The classmates have started the lesson.

(iii) Complete the sentence appropriately. (1)

The phrase ‘as quiet as Sunday morning’ suggests that

Answer:

the school was unusually quiet and still as if it were a day of holiday, rather than a bustling school day

(iv) Pick evidence from the extract that helps one infer that this was not the protagonist’s first time being late to school. (1)

Answer:

We can say that it was not the first time that protagonist was late because he seems to have a plan for how to sneak into class without being noticed suggesting that they may have been in similar situations before.

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(v) What does the term ‘terrible iron ruler’ indicate about M. Hamel? (1)

Answer:

The term ‘terrible iron ruler’ indicates the strictness and severity of M. Hamel’s discipline.

(vi) Which of the following headlines best suggests the central idea of the extract? (1)

- (a) The Fears of a Latecomer
- (b) The Importance of Punctuality
- (c) The Rigidity of the School System
- (d) The Anxiety of a Young Student

Answer:

- (b) The Importance of Punctuality

B. Unaware of what his name represents, he roams the streets with his friends, an army of barefoot boys who appear like the morning birds and disappear at noon. Over the months, I have come to recognise each of them.

“Why aren’t you wearing chappals?” I ask one.

“My mother did not bring them down from the shelf,” he answers simply.

“Even if she did, he will throw them off,” adds another who is wearing shoes that do not match.

When I comment on it, he shuffles his feet and says nothing. “I want shoes,” says a third boy who has never owned a pair all his life. Travelling across the country I have seen children walking barefoot, in cities, on village roads. It is not lack of money but a tradition to stay barefoot, is one explanation. (Lost Spring)

(i) What is the writer’s purpose in allowing the boys to speak for themselves via dialogue as opposed to only a writer’s commentary? (1)

Answer:

The writer’s purpose in allowing the boys to speak for themselves via dialogue as opposed to the writer’s commentary is to give voice to their hopes, dreams and struggles in a way that is immediate and relatable and to add a sense of authenticity and realism to the story.

(ii) The line, “It is not lack of money but a tradition to stay barefoot,” can be best classified as (1)

- (a) A fact
- (b) An opinion
- (c) A theme
- (d) A plot point

Answer:

- (b) An opinion

(iii) Explain any one possible inference that can be drawn from the line, “an army of barefoot boys who appear like the morning birds and disappear at noon”. (1)

Answer:

The given lines indicate that the boys are a unified group and that they have a sense of solidarity or shared identity. It also suggests that they may come from poor or marginalised backgrounds and do not have access to proper footwear. Further, the comparison to ‘morning birds’ suggests that the boys are lively and energetic and that they move around quickly and unpredictably.

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(iv) Identify the line from the text that bears evidence to the fact that the writer’s association with the boys is not a recent one. (1)

Answer:

The line from the text – ‘Over the months, I have come to recognise each of them’ – suggests that the writer has been observing and interacting with the boys for a prolonged period of time, and that she has developed a deeper understanding of their lives and circumstances.

(v) Based on the context provided in the extract, select the most likely comment that the writer would have made based on the boy’s reaction to the mismatched shoes. (1)

(a) “Why are your shoes mismatched? That’s not a good look.”

(b) “Don’t worry about your shoes, you can wear a matching pair later.”

(c) “I like your shoes. What matters is that they protect your feet.”

(d) “Have you chosen to mismatch your shoes?”

Answer:

(c) “I like your shoes. What matters is that they protect your feet.”

(vi) Complete the sentence with ONE word. (1)

The phrase “The answers simply”, suggests that the boy’s response to the writer’s question about why he wasn’t wearing chappals was

Answer:

straightforward/ uncomplicated/ direct/ clear

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Question 10.

Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in about 40 – 50 words. (2 x 5 = 10)

(i) What can be inferred from Rajendra Prasad’s recorded upshot of the lawyer consultations, at Motihari?

[Reference – The senior lawyer replied, they had come to advise and help him; if he went to jail there would be nobody to advise and they would go home. What about the injustice to the sharecroppers, Gandhi demanded.] (Indigo) (2)

Answer:

From Rajendra Prasad’s recorded upshot of the lawyer’s consultation at Motihari, we can infer that despite being a stranger to the region, Gandhi’s commitment was exemplary and motivated the lawyers to continue their support. Further, it highlights the idea that the lawyers were conscious of the potential shame they would bring upon themselves if they deserted the peasants in their time of need. Additionally, it also suggests that Gandhi’s moral authority and courage had a significant impact on those around him and helped to inspire a sense of purpose and conviction to fight for justice and freedom.

(ii) Douglas uses sensory details to create a vivid image of the unfortunate experience in the pool. What might be the impact on the reader if the narration were more informative than sensory? (Deep Water) (2)

Answer:

If the narration done by Douglas was more informative than sensory, the impact on the reader would likely be less emotional and engaging as sensory details help readers connect with the experience being described on a deeper level. They allow readers to visualise the scene in their minds and feel like they are a part of it. Even though informative details may provide more

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factual information, they can sometimes feel detached and impersonal, leaving readers feeling less connected to the story.

(iii) How does the setting of the remote forest location in ‘The Rattrap’ contribute to the overall tone and mood of the story? (2)

Answer:

The setting of the remote forest location in ‘The Rattrap’ serves as a significant backdrop for the events that unfold in the story. The harsh winter and the barren landscape creates a sense of isolation and desolation emphasising the loneliness and despair that the peddler experiences. The forest also represents the metaphorical wilderness of the human soul highlighting the struggles and temptations that people face in their journey through life.

(iv) How might the message of the poem, ‘Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers’ be different, if the following last four lines were omitted? (2)

When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie
Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by.
The tigers in the panel that she made
Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.

Answer:

If the last four lines of the poem ‘Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers’ were omitted, the poem would have a more sombre tone. Without the image of the tigers continuing to prance, the poem would end on a note of despair, with Aunt Jennifer’s hands still ringed with the ordeals she was mastered by.

(v) Umberto Eco, with reference to ‘The Name of the Rose’ says, “I think if I had written The Name of the Rose ten years earlier or ten years later, it wouldn’t have been the same.” What could he have meant? (The Interview) (2)

Answer:

Umberto Eco suggests that the success of his book ‘The Name of the Rose’ was largely due to timing. He believes that if he had written the book ten years earlier or ten years later, it wouldn’t have had the same impact. This could be interpreted as Eco recognising the importance of cultural context and how the reception of a work of art is influenced by the historical, social and political climate of its time. Therefore, if he had written the book earlier or later, it might not have been as relevant or timely and might not have captured the same level of attention and interest.

(vi) What does the story of Subbu’s success in the film industry reveal about the importance of loyalty, creativity and versatility in this field? (Poets and Pancakes) (2)

Answer:

Subbu’s success in the film industry reveals that loyalty, creativity and versatility are essential qualities for success in this field. Subbu was an extremely loyal employee. He was also a highly versatile person who could be inspired to come up with numerous alternatives when given a problem to solve. Additionally, he had the ability to work well with others. These qualities made him an invaluable asset to the Gemini Studios during its golden years.

Question 11.

Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40 – 50 words. (2 x 2 = 4)

(i) How can we say that the vadai packet incident reveals that the writer lacked the cognitive and emotional maturity required to understand the implications of untouchability? (2)

Answer:

It is true that, during the vadai incident, the writer lacked the cognitive and emotional maturity

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required to understand the implications of untouchability. This is so because, at the time of the incident, the writer was only in the third grade or eight years old. This is an age wherein children are still developing their cognitive and emotional abilities and are unable to understand complex social issues like untouchability. Further, the writer has shared that she had not, till then, heard people speak openly of untouchability which suggests that she may not have had a complete grasp of the issue’s societal implications.

(ii) What does the play ‘On the Face of It’ suggest about the importance of empathy in overcoming prejudice and stereotypes? (2)

Answer:

The play ‘On the Face of It’, in its plot, highlights the damaging effects of prejudice and stereotypes on both the victim and the perpetrator. In doing so, it highlights that empathy and understanding can overcome these barriers. Through the development of a relationship between the two characters, Derry and Mr. Lamb, we see how their initial assumptions about each other are challenged and ultimately broken down. This underscores the importance of empathy in recognising and overcoming prejudices as it allows individuals to see beyond surface-level differences and level.

(iii) Answer the question in the context of the following lines from ‘The Enemy’.

“Stupid Yumi,” she muttered fiercely. “Is this anything but a man? And a wounded helpless ‘ man!”

In the conviction of her own superiority, she bent impulsively and untied the knotted rugs that kept the white man covered.

Explain the superiority Hana is convinced about. (2)

Answer:

In the given lines, Hana is expressing her frustration with Yumi who is hesitant to help her with the wounded white man. By making the given remark, Hana is highlighting the fact that they are all humans, regardless of their race or nationality. She believes that their common humanity makes it their moral duty to help the wounded man. In doing so, she is asserting her own intervention and belief in the importance of doing the right thing even if it goes against traditional values or societal norms. This demonstrates her sense of moral superiority over Yumi who is more concerned with following the strict rules of her society than with helping a fellow human being.

Question 12.

Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120 – 150 words. (5)

A. Imagine you are Pablo Neruda , the poet of ‘Keeping Quiet’. What advice might you offer to Robert Frost, the poet of A Roadside Stand in the context of his conflicted emotions as displayed in the given lines

The requisite lift of spirit has never been found,
Or so the voice of the country seems to complain,
I can’t help owning the great relief it would be
To put these people at one stroke out of their pain.

Pen down your advice, in a letter to Frost.

You may begin this way:

Dear Robert

I recently read your poem, A Roadside Stand,’ and...

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You may end this way:

I hope this advice is helpful to you. Please let me know if there is anything else I can do to support you.

Warmly

Pablo Neruda

OR

B. The different portrayals of women in the texts Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers’, ‘Going Places’, ‘Lost Spring’ and ‘My Mother at Sixty-Six’ offer insights into the experiences of women in society. You have been asked to address your peers and share

- the ways these portrayals highlight the diversity of the female experience.
- the importance of understanding each individual woman’s challenges and experiences.

Compose this draft, with reference to any three of these prescribed texts, listed above.

You may begin this way:

Good morning, everyone.

As I analysed the allotted texts...

You may end this way:

To conclude, I fd like to say that...

Answer:

A. Dear Robert

I recently read your poem ‘A Roadside Stand’ and was struck by the conflicting emotions that you expressed towards the end. I understand that it can be difficult to make decisions when we are overwhelmed by our emotions. In my own experience, I have found that taking a moment of stillness and reflection can be very helpful in gaining a deeper understanding of the situation and connecting with our own humanity and that of others. This is the message that I try to convey in my poem ‘Keeping Quiet’. I would advise you to take a moment to be still and contemplative before making any decisions about the fate of the people at the roadside stand.

By quieting your mind and being present in the moment, you may be able to understand their struggles and pain objectively, and gain a new perspective about your own place in the world too. I also feel that by breaking away from your routine and taking a moment of stillness and reflection, you might gain a deeper understanding of the situation and make a more functional decision. I believe that this moment of reflection could help you see beyond your conflicting emotions. We are all human, after all, and before connecting with others and resolving their issues, we must try to connect with our own selves to advice from a place of balance and calm.

I hope this advice is helpful to you. Please let me know if there is anything else I can do to support you.

Warmly

Pablo Neruda

OR

B. Good morning, everyone. As I analysed the allotted texts, I noticed that though the portrayal of each woman was unique, they all offered varied insights into the experiences of women in society. To begin with, Aunt Jennifer was portrayed as a victim of patriarchy, living in a world

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where women were expected to conform to societal norms and expectations, and were unable to attain the freedom and strength that they desired due to the limitations imposed upon them by society.

In contrast, Sophie was portrayed as ambitious and determined to break free from societal norms. She refused to be limited by her gender and sought to challenge the restrictions placed upon her. Sophie’s mother, on the other hand, had chosen to conform and sacrifice her individuality to societal expectations. Similarly in ‘Lost Spring’, the grandmother and daughter-in-law, in Firozabad, were portrayed as resilient in the face of poverty and the societal constraints of their caste. However, unlike Sophie’s and Aunt Jennifer’s need to find an outlet, they found ways to make the best of their situation, despite the limitations placed upon them.

These portrayals of women offer valuable insights into the experiences of women in our society- from victimisation to the resilience in the face of poverty – and offer us important lessons about strength, vulnerability and the need for empathy and respect. To conclude, I’d like to say that as readers, we can learn from their experiences and strive towards a more equitable and just society. These characters, stress that it is important to recognise the complexities of each woman’s experiences, and refrain from passing sweeping judgements as women are not a uniform group, rather unique individuals.

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Question 13.

Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120 – 150 words. (5)

A. In the story, ‘The Third Level’ by Jack Finney, Charley is obsessed with finding the third level. In an attempt to thrash out whether this obsession is a good quality or a harmful one, Charley’s wife expresses her thoughts in a diary entry. As Louisa, Charley’s wife, write this diary entry. Support your response with reference to the story.

You may begin this way:

I have been married to Charley for a few years now and I have always known him to be an intelligent man with an imaginative mind. However, his recent obsession with finding the Third Level has ...

OR

B. A grown up Zitkala-Sa reflects on the incident about cutting of her long hair and is conflicted that she did not do enough to resist and surrendered easily. She also wonders if she could have tried something else to prevent the incident.

As the grown-up Zitkala-Sa, create a diary entry, expressing these thoughts and conclude by absolving yourself of any blame.

You may begin like this: I find myself reflecting on an event that happened many years ago... (Memories of Childhood)

Answer:

A. I have been married to Charley for a few years now and I have always known him to be an intelligent man with an imaginative mind. However, his recent obsession with finding the Third Level has left me quite worried.

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While he talks about it with excitement, I cannot help but wonder if it is a good quality or a harmful one. On one hand, Charley's obsession displays his determination and persistence in achieving his goals. It shows that he is willing to go to great lengths to unravel the mysteries of life. His imagination and curiosity are admirable qualities that have always attracted me to him. However, his obsession has caused him to become detached from reality. He is no longer able to differentiate between what is real and what is not. He spends all his time and money searching for a place that may not even exist. This could be harmful not only for himself but also for our family.

I understand that he feels overwhelmed by the stress and pressures of his present life and Sam indicated that he uses his obsession as a coping mechanism. I think this is harmful as it prevents him from addressing the underlying issues that are causing him stress. Furthermore, Charley's obsession has caused him to neglect his responsibilities. He has been absent from work and has not been able to contribute financially to our household. His obsession is affecting our relationship, and I am afraid that if he continues on this path, it might lead to irreparable damage.

Finally, all I can say is that I believe that Charley's obsession with finding the Third Level may have started as a harmless curiosity but it has now become a harmful one. I love him dearly and I hope that he realizes that his obsession is affecting not only him but also people around him.

OR

B. I find myself reflecting on an event that happened many years ago, one that has continued to haunt me ever since. It is the incident where my long hair was forcefully cut off at the Carlisle Indian School. As I sit here today, I cannot help but feel conflicted about my actions that day. On one hand, I am proud that I stood up for myself and refused to submit to their demands at first. I remember the fire in my belly as I declared that I would struggle before giving in. However, as time passed, my spirit wavered, and eventually I allowed them to cut my hair.

Looking back now, I cannot help but feel that I gave in too easily, that I did not do enough to resist. As I ponder over what I could have done differently, I realise that there might have been other options. Perhaps, I could have sought help from my fellow students. Maybe I could have tried to escape or find another way out of the situation. But in that moment, I was so overwhelmed and confused that I could not think straight. I know that I have blamed myself for this incident for far too long. But today, I choose to absolve myself of any blame.

As a young girl, I was forced into a strange place. I was not given the chance to make my own choices, to decide what was best for me. I was the victim of the system that sought to strip away my identity and forced me to assimilate. Today, I choose to forgive myself and honour the brave little girl who stood up for herself that day.

I am grateful for her courage and strength and I will continue to honour her memory by fighting for justice and 'equality for all.