# CBSE 2023 English — Set 1 — Answer Key

English Medium

Time Allowed: 3 Hours | Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

1. This question paper contains 45 questions. All questions are compulsory.
2. Section A — Reading Skills (20 marks).
3. Section B — Creative Writing Skills (16 marks).
4. Section C — Grammar (8 marks).
5. Section D — Literature (36 marks).

Q.1(i) [1 mark]

Complete the sentence by choosing an appropriate option:

Avalanche can be caused by

(a) new snow or rain <<

(b) heavy winds

(c) high altitude

(d) global warming

Explanation:

The passage states: 'For example, new snow or rain can cause built up snow to loosen and fall down the side of a mountain.'

Q.0

Comment on warning signs exist which allow experts to predict avalanches in two sentences.

Answer: Warning signs exist that allow experts to predict and often prevent avalanches from occurring. When over a foot of fresh snow falls, experts know to be on the lookout for avalanches and can use explosives to trigger smaller, safer avalanches.

Explanation:

Paragraph 3 explains how experts use warning signs such as heavy snowfall to predict avalanches, and use explosives to trigger controlled smaller avalanches to prevent dangerous ones.

Q.0

Mention two reasons which destroyed the natural scenery.

Answer: Avalanches have destroyed forests and roads (as well as railroads and even entire towns).

Explanation:

The passage states: 'avalanches have destroyed forests, roads, railroads and even entire towns.' Any two of these are acceptable.

Q.0

Select the option that conveys the opposite of 'massive':

(a) tiny <<
(b) lengthy
(c) bulky
(d) extensive

Explanation:

'Massive' means extremely large.
The opposite would be 'tiny', meaning extremely small.

Q.1(v) [1 mark]

The writer will agree with one of the given statements (paragraph 4):

(a) People caught in the Avalanche can try to swim to the top. <<
(b) Put on an Oxygen Mask.
(c) Digging is not possible.
(d) Should not come close to the surface.

Explanation:

Paragraph 4 states: 'Experts suggest that people caught in an avalanche try to "swim" to the top of the moving snow to stay close to the surface.'

Q.0

Select the option that corresponds to the following relation below:
You may not have an idea of which way is up and which way is down.

(a) The crowd will gather at Gate No. 1 and disperse from Gate No. 2.
(b) Due to the torrential rain, there was a heavy flooding.
(c) The guest felt uneasy and uncomfortable watching the child's performance. <<
(d) The more the effort, the bigger the gain.

Explanation:

The relationship in the given sentence is about confusion/disorientation (not knowing

up from down).
Similarly, 'uneasy and uncomfortable' conveys a similar sense of unsettled feeling, and the underlined words are near-synonyms showing the same relationship pattern.

Q.0

The major causes which do not trigger an avalanche:

(a) Earthquakes
(b) Snow fall
(c) Rain
(d) Plastic waste <<

Explanation:
The passage mentions earthquakes, snow/rain, animals, snowmobiles, skiers, gunshots, and explosives as causes.
Plastic waste is never mentioned as a trigger for avalanches.

Q.0

Explosives can be used in places _____ (complete the sentence).

Answer: with massive snow build-ups to trigger smaller avalanches that don't pose a danger to persons or property

Explanation:
The passage states: 'Explosives can be used in places with massive snow build-ups to trigger smaller avalanches that don't pose a danger to persons or property.'

Q.0

The word 'deadly' in the (3) paragraph nearly means:

(a) likely to cause death <<
(b) harmful
(c) very boring
(d) scary

Explanation:

'Deadly' means capable of causing or likely to cause death.

Q.1(x) [1 mark]

Select the most suitable title for the above passage:

(a) Avalanches <<

(b) Adventure with Snow

(c) Ice Games

(d) Calamity

Explanation:

The entire passage is about avalanches – their causes, dangers, warning signs, and survival tips.

'Avalanches' is the most fitting title.

Q.2(i) [1 mark]

Infer one reason for the following, based on information in paragraph 1.

Reducing traffic congestion is not easy.

Answer: The cost of solving or reducing traffic congestion is enormous. Moreover, neglecting the traffic jam problem would increase the social problems among citizens, making it a complex issue without easy solutions.

Explanation:

Paragraph 1 states that 'the cost of solving or reducing traffic congestion is enormous', which directly explains why reducing it is not easy.

Q.0

Select the appropriate option to complete the following sentence. The reasons for increased traffic congestion are _____.

1. use of private vehicles
2. increase in demand for cars
3. inability to keep pace with population control
4. travelling by public transport

5. emission of pollutants

(a) 4, 5

(b) 1, 5

(c) 1, 2 <<

(d) 2, 3

Explanation:

The passage mentions that more people use private vehicles (reason 1) and there is an increase in demand/addition of vehicles (reason 2) as causes of increased traffic congestion.

Q.0

Complete the following analogy correctly with a word/phrase from the paragraph 5.

organized : chaotic :: lowest : _____

Clue: Just as organized is an antonym of chaotic, lowest is an antonym of _____.

Answer: increase

Explanation:

Just as 'organized' is the antonym of 'chaotic', 'lowest' is the antonym of a word meaning highest/most.

From paragraph 5, 'increase' is the appropriate antonym of 'lowest'.

Q.0

The vehicles emit pollutants which affect _____ badly.

Answer: the environment

Explanation:

The passage states: 'the vehicles emitting pollutants are affecting the environment adversely.'

Q.2(v) [1 mark]

Complete the following sentence.

Use of public transport will reduce _____.

Answer: traffic congestion

Explanation:

The passage discusses how people should use public transport to reduce traffic congestion, especially during peak hours.

Q.0

Select the appropriate option which states the methods of reducing traffic congestion.

1. start car pooling
2. add electric buses
3. increase in public modes of transport
4. increase car collection points
5. increase taxation

(a) 1, 4, 5

(b) 3, 5

(c) 2, 3, 4

(d) 1, 3 <<

Explanation:

The passage mentions car pooling/vehicle sharing (1) and increasing public modes of transport (3) as methods to reduce traffic congestion.

Q.0

Analyse the status of traffic between the years 2019-2022. (A bar graph shows traffic congestion percentages: 2019: 56%, 2020: 48%, 2021: 51%, 2022: 51%)

Answer: Traffic congestion was highest in 2019 at 56%, dropped to 48% in 2020 (likely due to COVID-19 lockdowns), then rose back to 51% in both 2021 and 2022, showing a partial recovery but remaining below 2019 levels.

Explanation:

The bar graph shows fluctuation in traffic congestion: a peak in 2019, a dip in 2020, and stabilization in 2021-2022.

Q.0

Give the reasons for increase in vehicular congestion.

Answer: The number of vehicles has increased considerably, with over five lakh vehicles added last year (over 4% increase). The transport system is not being able to keep pace with the growing demand, so more people use their private vehicles.

Explanation:

The passage cites growth in vehicular population and the inability of public transport to meet demand as key reasons for increased vehicular congestion.

Q.0

Fill in the blank by selecting the correct option.

There are _____ consequences of increasing vehicular congestion.

(a) beneficial

(b) adverse <<

(c) implicit

(d) explicit

Explanation:

The passage describes negative consequences such as air pollution, wasted time, respiratory diseases, and environmental damage.

'Adverse' means harmful or unfavourable.

Q.2(x) [1 mark]

Substitute the underlined word with ONE WORD similar in meaning in the following sentence:

Citizens of Delhi/NCR have time and again pondered over the possibilities of how to reduce traffic congestion.

Answer: considered / thought / reflected / contemplated

Explanation:

'Pondered' means to think about something carefully.

Synonyms include 'considered', 'thought', 'reflected', or 'contemplated'.

Q.3(i) [1 mark]

Reena always _____ the truth.

(a) spoke

(b) speaks <<

(c) will speak

(d) speaking

Explanation:

'Always' indicates a habitual action, requiring the simple present tense.

'Reena' is a singular subject, so 'speaks' is correct.

Q.0

Select the correct option to fill in the blank for the given line:

Bread and butter _____ my favourite breakfast.

(a) is <<

(b) are

(c) has been

(d) do

Explanation:

'Bread and butter' is treated as a single item (a compound noun referring to one thing), so it takes a singular verb 'is'.

Q.0

Read the conversation between two friends Ravi and Reena. Complete the sentence by reporting Reena's reply correctly.

Ravi: 'Reena, lend me hundred rupees.'

Reena: 'I don't have it right now, but I will arrange it for you.'

Ravi asked Reena to lend him hundred rupees, to which Reena replied that _____.

Answer: she did not have it right then, but she would arrange it for him

Explanation:

In reported speech, 'I don't' becomes 'she did not', 'right now' becomes 'right then', 'I will' becomes 'she would', and 'for you' becomes 'for him'.

Q.0

Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line:

I can run fast when I was young.

Option no. | Error | Correction

a | was | is

b | run | ran

c | can | could

d | when | whence

(a) a

(b) b

(c) c <<

(d) d

Explanation:

The sentence refers to the past ('when I was young'), so 'can' should be changed to 'could' to maintain past tense consistency.

Q.3(v) [1 mark]

Complete the given narrative, by filling in the blank with the correct option:

Heena _____ from fever since last Sunday.

(a) suffered

(b) will suffer

(c) suffer

(d) has been suffering <<

Explanation:

'Since last Sunday' indicates an action that started in the past and is continuing in the present, requiring the present perfect continuous tense: 'has been suffering'.

Q.0

Fill in the blank by using the correct word in the bracket.

Anyas _____ (eat) all the chocolates kept in the tray.

(a) ate <<

(b) eating

(c) have eaten

(d) eaten

Explanation:

The sentence describes a completed past action.

'Ate' is the simple past tense of 'eat' and fits the context.

Q.0

Report the dialogue between a mother and a daughter by completing the sentence:

Mother: Why are you looking so worried?

Daughter: My exams are approaching.

In response to the question of the mother, the daughter replied that _____.

Answer: her exams were approaching

Explanation:

In reported speech, 'my' becomes 'her' and 'are approaching' becomes 'were approaching' (backshift of tense).

Q.0

Identify the error in the given sentence:

The ship Titanic and her fate continues to fascinate the imagination of the

people.

Use the given format for your response: Error | Correction

Answer: Error: continues | Correction: continue

Explanation:

The subject is 'The ship Titanic and her fate' (compound subject joined by 'and'), which requires a plural verb 'continue' instead of the singular 'continues'.

Q.0

Ritu and Randeep are talking. Report Ritu's question.

Ritu – Where are you going?

Ritu asked _____.

Answer: Ritu asked where he was going

Explanation:

In reported speech, the question becomes an indirect question: 'where are you going' becomes 'where he was going' (no question mark, tense backshift, pronoun change).

Q.3(x) [1 mark]

Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete the slogan:

_____ smile and pass it to others.

(a) Happy

(b) Short

(c) Always <<

(d) Humble

Explanation:

'Always smile and pass it to others' makes the most grammatical and meaningful sense as a slogan, with 'Always' serving as an adverb modifying the verb 'smile'.

Q.0

Select the correct option to complete the narration of the dialogue between Anil and Sanjeev:

Anil: Where are you going?

Sanjeev: To the airport.

Anil: May I drop you there as I'm going in that direction?

Anil asked Sanjeev where he was going and offered to drop him as _____.

(a) he could be going in that direction

(b) he would be going in the direction

(c) he is going in the direction

(d) he was going in that direction <<

Explanation:

In reported speech, 'I'm going' becomes 'he was going' and 'that direction' is retained. Simple past tense backshift is applied.

Q.0

Identify the error in the newspaper headline:

Attractive packages for different Tourist destination – Mizoram, Kashmir, Kerala, Goa.

Use the given format for your response: Error | Correction

Answer: Error: destination | Correction: destinations

Explanation:

Since multiple tourist destinations are listed (Mizoram, Kashmir, Kerala, Goa), the word should be plural: 'destinations'.

Q.4(a) [1 mark]

You are pained to see that in your city, there is no proper arrangement for cleaning of drains. There are heaps of accumulated garbage and stagnant water. Write a letter to the Municipal Commissioner of your city complaining about the same as there is a fear of outbreak of disease. You are Alka/Ashish. (Word limit 100-120)

Answer: Model Answer:

Alka/Ashish
[Address]
[Date]

The Municipal Commissioner
[City Name]

Subject: Complaint regarding unclean drains and accumulated garbage

Respected Sir/Madam,

I am writing to draw your attention to the deplorable condition of cleanliness in our area. The drains have not been cleaned for months, resulting in stagnant water everywhere. Heaps of garbage have accumulated on the streets, attracting flies and mosquitoes.

This unhygienic condition poses a serious threat of disease outbreak, especially during the monsoon season. Residents are suffering from various infections. I request you to take immediate action to clean the drains, remove the garbage, and spray disinfectants in the area.

I hope you will look into this matter urgently.

Yours faithfully,
Alka/Ashish

Explanation:
This is a formal letter to the Municipal Commissioner.
It should follow the proper format: sender's address, date, receiver's designation, subject, body (stating the problem and requesting action), and closing.

Q.4(b) [1 mark]

(OR) The authorities have been claiming that the roads in your town have been relaid and repaired. But no such work done is seen. Write a letter to the editor of a local newspaper expressing your concern at the present situation and giving suggestions to resolve the problem, in 100-120 words. You are Prabhu/Parvati of Vivek Vihar, Delhi.

Answer: Model Answer:

Prabhu/Parvati
Vivek Vihar, Delhi
[Date]

The Editor
[Newspaper Name]
Delhi

Subject: Poor condition of roads despite claims of repair

Respected Sir/Madam,

Through the columns of your esteemed newspaper, I wish to highlight the deplorable condition of roads in Vivek Vihar, Delhi. The authorities have repeatedly claimed that roads have been relaid and repaired, but the ground reality is quite different.

The roads are full of potholes, causing accidents and traffic jams. During monsoon, they become waterlogged. I suggest the authorities conduct a proper survey, use quality materials for road construction, and ensure regular maintenance. Citizens should also be involved in monitoring road repair works.

I hope this letter brings the attention of the concerned authorities.

Yours truly,
Prabhu/Parvati

Explanation:
This is a letter to the editor format.
It should include the sender's address, date, editor's designation, subject line, body paragraphs (describing the issue and suggestions), and proper closing.

Q.5(a) [1 mark]

The chart below displays details regarding online activity for four age groups in six categories. Write an analytical paragraph for the table provided in about 100 words.

Activity% | Teens | 20s | 30s | 40s
News | 76 | 71 | 72 | 78
Downloads | 85 | 55 | 35 | 25
Buying a product | 44 | 66 | 67 | 69
Online games | 88 | 55 | 36 | 28
Searching for a product | 0 | 77 | 81 | 85
Searching for people | 6 | 33 | 22 | 21

Answer: The table presents data on online activities across four age groups: Teens, 20s, 30s, and 40s. Teens dominate in downloads (85%) and online games (88%), reflecting their tech-savvy nature. Interestingly, news consumption is fairly consistent across all groups (71-78%). Buying and searching for products show a clear upward trend with age, with 40s leading at 69% and 85% respectively, while teens show 0% in product searching. Searching for people is generally low across all groups. The data suggests that younger users prefer entertainment-based activities while older users engage more in practical, purchase-oriented online activities.

Explanation:

An analytical paragraph should describe the key trends visible in the data, compare across age groups, and draw meaningful conclusions.

Q.5(b) [1 mark]

(OR) A survey was conducted in New Delhi in over twenty schools about the different activities that interest the children in the age group of 13 to 15 years. Write an analytical paragraph in about 100 words analyzing the following information:

(Bar graph showing: Dance ~25, Cricket ~40, Music ~60, Art ~30, Theatre ~35)

Answer: The bar graph presents data on the activity preferences of children aged 13-15 from over twenty schools in New Delhi. Music emerges as the most popular activity with approximately 60 children showing interest, followed by Cricket at around 40. Theatre attracted about 35 children, while Art had approximately 30 interested participants. Dance was the least popular with roughly 25 children. The data reveals that performing arts (Music, Theatre) together attract the highest participation, suggesting a strong creative inclination among this age group. Schools could enhance their extracurricular programs by allocating more resources to music and performing arts activities.

Explanation:

The analytical paragraph should describe the bar graph data, identify trends, and provide meaningful analysis of the children's activity preferences.

Q.0

On the surface, it appears that Anne the thirteen-year-old girl _____.

(a) She had a family of many people.
(b) She had loving parents.
(c) She had thirty friends.
(d) She craves for a true friend. <<

Explanation:

The extract states 'on the surface I seem to have everything, except my one true friend', indicating that despite having family and acquaintances, she craves a true friend.

Q.0

How can we infer that the speaker felt alone in the world?

(a) She had a family of many people.

(b) She had loving parents.

(c) She had thirty friends.

(d) She craves for a true friend. <<

Explanation:

Anne feels alone because despite having family and friends, she doesn't have a true friend she can share deep thoughts with.

She can only talk about 'ordinary, everyday things' with her current friends.

Q.0

Anne and her friends talked about _____.

(a) their problematic parents

(b) their financial problems

(c) common everyday things <<

(d) the commuting problems

Explanation:

The extract states: 'I can't bring myself to talk about anything but ordinary, everyday things.'

Q.0

Complete the analogy by selecting the suitable word from the text:

alone : friends :: nothing : _____

Answer: everything

Explanation:

Just as 'alone' is the opposite of having 'friends', 'nothing' is the opposite of 'everything'.

The word 'everything' appears in the extract.

Q.0

Select the option that correctly captures the usage of the idiom 'bring myself' from the extract:

(a) to do something willingly

(b) to do something unwillingly <<

(c) a charitable act

(d) an involuntary act

Explanation:

'I can't bring myself to talk about...' means she is unable to force herself to do something, implying unwillingness or difficulty in performing the action.

Q.0

Mrs. Hall tripped because _____.

(a) the floor was oily.

(b) she was standing on a chair.

(c) she was in a state of panic. <<

(d) the door was slammed.

Explanation:

The extract says Mrs.

Hall 'almost fell down the stairs in hysterics', meaning she was in a state of panic/hysteria which caused her to trip.

Q.0

Mrs. Hall suspected everything in the room was put under a spell of witchcraft by _____.

Answer: the stranger

Explanation:

The extract states: 'the stranger had somehow caused these to enter into her furniture', indicating Mrs.

Hall believed the stranger was responsible.

Q.0

Fill in the blank with one word only:

Mrs. Hall was afraid that spirits had entered _____.

Answer: her furniture

Explanation:

The extract states that 'the stranger had somehow caused these to enter into her furniture'.

Q.0

According to the extract, the feeling of Mrs. Hall can be best described as:

(1) stunned (2) happy (3) awestruck (4) nervous (5) outraged (6) agitated

Select the correct option:

(a) (2) and (4)

(b) (3) and (6)

(c) (5) and (6) <<

(d) (1) and (6)

Explanation:

Mrs.

Hall was in hysterics, indicating she was both outraged (at the stranger causing this) and agitated (extremely disturbed and upset).

These best describe her emotional state.

Q.0

'Spirits' in the above lines means the same as:

(a) ghosts <<

(b) conscience

(c) ego
(d) attitude

Explanation:
In the context of the passage, 'spirits' refers to supernatural beings or ghosts that Mrs. Hall believed were haunting the room.

Q.0
Select the appropriate option to complete the sentence, according to the extract:
Crocodiles can be identified by their _____.

(a) tears <<
(b) attitude
(c) smiles
(d) attacks

Explanation:
The poem says 'if they weep they're crocodiles' – crocodiles are identified by their tears (crocodile tears), as opposed to hyenas who come with 'merry smiles'.

Q.0
State whether the following statement is True or False:
Hyenas are famous for weeping.
Answer: False

Explanation:
The poem states 'Hyenas come with merry smiles' – hyenas are associated with smiling, not weeping.
Weeping is associated with crocodiles.

Q.0
'Novice' in line 2 means the same as:

(a) learner
(b) beast

(c) tender foot

(d) beginner <<

Explanation:

'Novice' means a person who is new to or inexperienced in a field or situation, i.e., a beginner.

Q.0

In this extract the poet has presented two different behavioural traits of animals. They are _____.

Answer: smiling (hyenas) and weeping (crocodiles)

Explanation:

The poem contrasts two behavioural traits: hyenas come with 'merry smiles' while crocodiles 'weep' (shed tears).

Q.0

The poet uses 'A novice might nonplus' instead of 'the novice might get confused'. How does this usage impact the poem?

(a) adds an incorrect option

(b) it is associated with beasts

(c) it rhymes and adds humour <<

(d) it simplifies the meaning

Explanation:

'Nonplus' rhymes with 'thus' in the poem, maintaining the rhyme scheme, and the unusual word choice adds a humorous, light-hearted tone to the poem.

Q.0

Complete the sentence appropriately.

The vivid stripes refer to the _____.

Answer: tiger's body/the tiger

Explanation:

The poem 'A Tiger in the Zoo' by Leslie Norris describes a tiger with 'vivid stripes' – referring to the distinctive striped pattern on the tiger's body.

Q.0

Which word from the extract is the opposite of 'loud'?

Answer: quiet

Explanation:

The word 'quiet' appears twice in the extract and is the opposite of 'loud'.

Q.0

The use of the phrase 'pads of velvet' means:

(a) neck
(b) tail
(c) skin
(d) paws <<

Explanation:

'Pads of velvet' refers to the tiger's paws, which are soft like velvet, allowing it to move quietly.

Q.0

State whether the following statement is True or False:
The confinement of the cramped space of the cage has restricted the tiger's steps.

Answer: True

Explanation:

The poem says 'The few steps of his cage', indicating the cage's small/cramped space has limited the tiger to only a few steps.

Q.0

The tiger was lurking in shadow _____.

(a) to catch its prey <<
(b) as the cage was dark
(c) as the velvet was quiet
(d) as he was in a rage

Explanation:
The poem says the tiger 'should be lurking in shadow / Sliding through long grass / Near the water hole / Where plump deer pass' – indicating the tiger would lurk in shadow to hunt/catch its prey (the plump deer).

Q.8(a) [1 mark]

What did Pranjol and Rajvir do during the journey? Why?

Answer: During the journey, Rajvir looked out of the train window and enjoyed the scenic beauty of the tea gardens and the lush green landscape of Assam. Pranjol, on the other hand, was buried in his detective book and was not interested in the scenery outside. Rajvir was excited about visiting Assam for the first time, while Pranjol, being a local, was used to the sights.

Explanation:
This question is from the chapter 'Tea from Assam' (Glimpses of India).
Rajvir enjoyed the scenery while Pranjol read a detective novel during their train journey to Assam.

Q.8(b) [1 mark]

Who read the letter sent by Lencho? What did he do then?

Answer: The postmaster read the letter sent by Lencho to God. He was deeply moved by Lencho's faith in God. In order to not shake Lencho's faith, the postmaster decided to answer the letter himself. He collected money from his employees and friends, put it in an envelope, and sent it to Lencho signed as 'God'.

Explanation:
This is from 'A Letter to God' by G.L.

Fuentes.

The postmaster read Lencho's letter asking God for 100 pesos and decided to help maintain Lencho's faith.

Q.8(c) [1 mark]

Where is Coorg located? Write any two characteristics of the people of Coorg.

Answer: Coorg (Kodagu) is located midway between Mysore and the coastal town of Mangalore in Karnataka. It is the smallest district of Karnataka. Two characteristics of the people of Coorg: (1) They are fiercely independent and brave – the Kodavus are the only people in India permitted to carry firearms without a licence. (2) They are hospitable and warm, known for their love of outdoor activities and martial traditions. Many Coorgis have served in the Indian Army with distinction.

Explanation:

This is from 'Coorg' (Glimpses of India).

The passage describes Coorg's location and the brave, hospitable nature of its people.

Q.8(d) [1 mark]

How does the poem 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon' differ from the traditional ballad?

Answer: The poem 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon' by Ogden Nash differs from a traditional ballad in several ways: (1) It is a mock-heroic ballad that uses humour and satire, unlike the serious tone of traditional ballads. (2) The characters are pets with funny names (Ink, Blink, Mustard, Custard) rather than heroic figures. (3) The poem has an ironic twist – the supposedly cowardly Custard turns out to be the bravest, while the supposedly brave pets turn out to be cowards. (4) The language is playful and comic rather than grand and solemn.

Explanation:

Nash's poem parodies the ballad form by using humour, irony, and comic characters

instead of the traditional serious heroic narrative.

Q.8(e) [1 mark]

What does the Buddha say about the world?

Answer: The Buddha says that the world is deeply affected by suffering, disease, and death. He tells Kisa Gotami that there is no way to avoid death – it is an inevitable part of life. He compares human life to ripe fruits that are always in danger of falling, and to earthen vessels made by the potter that all eventually break. He teaches that the wise do not grieve, as lamentation only increases pain. One who has overcome sorrow finds peace of mind and becomes blessed.

Explanation:

This is from 'The Sermon at Benares'.

The Buddha's teaching emphasizes the inevitability of death and the importance of accepting it to find peace.

Q.9(a) [1 mark]

Why does Anil not hand over Hari Singh to the police?

Answer: Anil does not hand over Hari Singh to the police because he realizes that Hari Singh has returned the stolen money on his own. When Anil finds the wet money under his mattress, he understands that Hari Singh had stolen it but had a change of heart and came back. Anil values Hari Singh's transformation and desire to learn more than the money. He believes in giving him a second chance and wants to help him become educated and lead an honest life.

Explanation:

This is from 'The Thief's Story' by Ruskin Bond.

Anil shows compassion and understanding, choosing to forgive Hari Singh rather than punish him.

Q.9(b) [1 mark]

What opinion did Mr. Weiherer, Ebright's Social Science teacher, have about him?

Answer: Mr. Weiherer, Ebright's Social Science teacher, described him as a brilliant student who was not only interested in science but also in other areas. He said that Ebright was a motivated, competitive student who wanted to be the best in everything. He was also a good debater, a public speaker, a canoe racer, and an all-rounder. Mr. Weiherer noted that Ebright always put in extra effort and did additional work beyond what was required.

Explanation:

This is from 'The Making of a Scientist'.

Mr.

Weiherer highlighted Ebright's all-round abilities and his drive to excel in everything.

Q.9(c) [1 mark]

What was Mr. Herriot's strict advice? Did Mrs. Pumphrey agree to his advice?

Answer: Mr. Herriot's strict advice was to cut down Tricki's food and give him plenty of exercise, particularly long walks and no more rich food, cakes, or chocolates. He warned Mrs. Pumphrey that Tricki was seriously overweight and could fall ill. However, Mrs. Pumphrey did not fully follow his advice. She was too indulgent and could not resist giving Tricki extra food and treats. Eventually, Tricki became so ill that Mr. Herriot had to take him away for treatment.

Explanation:

This is from 'A Triumph of Surgery' by James Herriot.

The vet advised diet control and exercise, but the doting Mrs.

Pumphrey could not bring herself to follow through.

Q.10(a) [1 mark]

Whenever we want to achieve something, difficulties always come in our way. What did Valli have to do to go and ride in a bus?

Answer: Valli had a deep desire to ride in a bus. To achieve this, she had to overcome several difficulties: (1) She carefully planned by listening to

conversations between her neighbours and the bus passengers to gather information about the bus timings, fare, and route. (2) She saved money over months by resisting the temptation to buy peppermints, toys, and balloons. (3) She had to save 60 paise for the round trip fare by being very thrifty. (4) She had to keep her plan secret from her mother and slip away while her mother was sleeping in the afternoon. (5) She had to overcome the challenge of climbing the tall bus steps by herself. Despite being just eight years old, her determination and careful planning helped her fulfill her dream.

Explanation:

This is from 'Madam Rides the Bus'.

Valli's meticulous planning, saving, and determination show how she overcame difficulties to achieve her goal.

Q.10(b) [1 mark]

(OR) Through the story of Kisa Gotami, what did the Buddha try to preach to the common man?

Answer: Through the story of Kisa Gotami, the Buddha tried to preach several important lessons: (1) Death is inevitable and universal – no one can escape it. When Kisa Gotami went from house to house seeking mustard seeds from a home where no one had died, she could not find a single such house. (2) Grieving excessively over death only increases suffering and does not bring back the dead. (3) The wise accept the reality of death and do not mourn endlessly. (4) Everything in this world is impermanent – like ripe fruits that fall and earthen pots that break, all living beings must die. (5) True peace and happiness come from accepting the inevitable and overcoming attachment and grief. The Buddha's teaching emphasised that understanding and accepting the transience of life leads to inner peace.

Explanation:

This is from 'The Sermon at Benares'.

The Buddha used Kisa Gotami's experience to teach about the universality of death

and the path to peace through acceptance.

Q.11(a) [5 marks]

Education is always a great asset in the life of a woman. How did Bholi, an educated girl, face the challenge posed by Bishamber's greed?

Answer: Bholi, who was once a timid, stammering girl, transformed through education into a confident young woman. When Bishamber Nath demanded a dowry of five thousand rupees at the wedding, seeing the pockmarks on Bholi's face, Bholi stood up against this injustice. She refused to marry such a greedy and mean person. She tore up the garland and threw it into the fire, declaring she would not marry a man who was so greedy. Her education had given her the confidence to speak up against the dowry demand. She told her father not to worry, promising that she would serve her parents in their old age and teach in the same school where she had studied. Education empowered Bholi to reject exploitation and stand up for her dignity.

Explanation:

This is from 'Bholi' by K.A.
Abbas.
Education transformed Bholi from a meek girl into a confident woman who could stand up against the social evil of dowry.

Q.11(b) [5 marks]

(OR) Those who are satisfied with what they have are happy in life. Those who aspire more than what they can afford ruin their life. Matilda was one such person. If she were content with her life she would have led a happy life. Elaborate on the basis of the chapter 'The Necklace.'

Answer: Matilda Loisel in 'The Necklace' by Guy de Maupassant is a perfect example of how discontentment can ruin one's life. Despite having a comfortable middle-class life with a loving husband, she constantly yearned for wealth, luxury, and high society. She borrowed what she thought was a diamond necklace from her friend Madame Forestier for a ball, only to lose it. Instead of telling the truth,

she and her husband borrowed heavily to buy a replacement. They spent the next ten years in extreme poverty, doing menial labour to repay the debt. The cruel irony was that the original necklace was made of fake diamonds, worth only 500 francs. Had Matilda been content with her life, she would never have borrowed the necklace, and the couple would have lived happily. The story teaches that greed and discontentment lead to suffering, while satisfaction and honesty lead to happiness.

Explanation:

This is from 'The Necklace' by Guy de Maupassant.

The story illustrates how Matilda's vanity and dissatisfaction with her modest life led to ten years of unnecessary hardship.