CBSE 2025 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).

Section A — Reading Skills

Comprehension (1-2 marks each)

Q.1 [1 mark]

What is the tone of the writer in the given lines? Rationalise your response in about 40 words. "Saffron is being used since ages in various foods made for the royals and the elite as it contains medicinal properties."

Answer: The tone of the writer is reverential and admiring. The writer highlights saffron's long history of use by royalty and the elite, emphasizing its medicinal properties, which shows deep respect and appreciation for the spice's legacy and value.

Explanation:

The writer's language — 'revered,' 'prized,' 'royals and the elite' — conveys admiration and reverence for saffron.

Paragraph 1 establishes a tone of high regard for the spice.

Q.2 [1 mark]

Which of the following statements best describes the comparison made in the sentence? "Just like gold is among the most valuable metals in the world, saffron means the same in the world of spices."

(a) Gold and saffron have similar physical properties.

(b) Gold and saffron have equal monetary value.

(c) Saffron is considered the most valuable spice, similar to how gold is valued among metals. <<

(d) Gold and saffron are both rare commodities in the global market.

Explanation:

The comparison is about relative value within their respective categories.

Just as gold is the most valuable metal, saffron is the most valuable spice.

It is not about physical properties, equal monetary value, or rarity as commodities.

Q.3 [1 mark]

List any two points why saffron is revered across the globe. (Paragraphs 2 and 3)

Answer: Two points why saffron is revered: (1) It transforms ordinary dishes into extraordinary ones, infusing them with a subtle, earthy sweetness and a special taste. (2) It forms the backbone of several iconic dishes from around the world, such as Paella, Bouillabaisse, Risotto Milanese, Kesar Kulfi, Biryani, and Tachin.

Explanation:

Paragraphs 2 and 3 describe saffron's culinary significance — its ability to elevate dishes with unique flavour and aroma, and its central role in iconic global cuisines.

Q.4 [1 mark]

In the phrase 'backbone of several iconic dishes', the word 'iconic' refers to _____.

(a) delicately cooked
(b) widely recognized <<
(c) peculiar and rare
(d) strange and infamous

Explanation:

'Iconic' means widely recognized and well-established.

In context, the dishes mentioned (Paella, Risotto Milanese, Biryani, etc.) are all famous, widely known dishes from their respective cultures.

Q.5 [1 mark]

Complete the sentence appropriately: Saffron has a labour-intensive cultivation process which involves _____. (Paragraph 4)

Answer: handpicking the three stigmas from each flower, spreading them on trays, and drying them over charcoal fires.

Explanation:

Paragraph 4 describes the labour-intensive process: the three stigmas are handpicked from each flower, spread on trays, and dried over charcoal fires for use as a food flavouring and colouring agent.

Q.6 [1 mark]

State whether the following statement is True or False: According to historians, saffron was first used in the kitchens in Iran. (Paragraph 5)

Answer: False. According to paragraph 5, most historians speculate saffron was first 'domesticated' in Iran, not necessarily first 'used in the kitchens.' The passage refers to domestication/cultivation, not kitchen use specifically.

Explanation:

The passage says 'Most historians speculate it was first domesticated in Iran.' The word 'domesticated' refers to cultivation, not kitchen use.

Additionally, south-western Greek islands remain strong contenders, so it is not certain.

Q.7 [1 mark]

Which of the following statements best describes the reason for saffron's high retail value?

(a) Due to its magical or mystical properties.

(b) Because it can only be grown in specific regions.

(c) Due to its labour-intensive cultivation process and its relatively low yield per plant. <<

(d) Because traders, conquerors, and world explorers hoard it.

Explanation:

Paragraph 6 explains that the high retail value is maintained because of labour-intensive harvesting methods requiring 444,000 hand-picked stigmas per kilogram and 40 hours of labour for 150,000 flowers.

This clearly points to labour-intensive process and low yield.

Q.8 [1 mark]

Support the writer's view with evidence from the text that saffron is often adulterated. (Paragraph 7)

Answer: The passage states that adulterants like beetroot or pomegranate are used to enhance red colour; silk fibres, oil, or wax are used to add bulk; and powdered saffron can be adulterated with turmeric and paprika. This variety of adulteration methods supports the view that it is often adulterated.

Explanation:

Paragraph 7 provides multiple examples of adulteration: beetroot/pomegranate for colour, silk fibres/oil/wax for bulk, and turmeric/paprika for powdered saffron.

The sheer number of methods listed supports the claim that adulteration is 'quite common.'

Q.9 [1 mark]

What does the phrase 'luxurious qualities' in paragraph (2) tell you about the silk fabric? Write in 40 words with evidence from the text.

Answer: The phrase 'luxurious qualities' tells us that silk is a premium fabric with a natural soft and smooth texture that feels comfortable on the skin. It also has the unique ability to absorb and release moisture, regulating body temperature and keeping the wearer cool and dry.

Explanation:

Paragraph 2 elaborates on 'luxurious qualities' by describing silk's natural soft and smooth texture, comfort on skin, and its moisture-regulating properties that keep the wearer cool and dry.

Q.10 [1 mark]

Select the option that is true for the assertion and reason given below.

Assertion: Silk production requires careful selection.

Reason: Long and uniform silk fibres give silk a glossy appearance.

(a) Both the assertion and the reason are true, and the reason is the correct

explanation of the assertion. <<

(b) Both the assertion and the reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.

(c) The assertion is true, but the reason is false.

(d) The assertion is false, but the reason is true.

Explanation:

The passage states: 'superior quality silk fabrics are made from long and uniform silk fibres giving them a smooth and lustrous appearance.

Thus, production requires careful selection.' Both assertion and reason are true, and the reason correctly explains why careful selection is needed.

Section B — Creative Writing Skills

Writing (3-5 marks each)

Q.11 [5 marks]

Justify the following statement: Silk whispers luxury! Its price reflects not just its rarity but the value of the meticulous process behind its creation.

Answer: The statement is justified because silk production is labour-intensive, requires specialised knowledge and skilled artisans, depends on limited natural factors (climate, mulberry leaves, silkworm lifecycle), and demands careful selection of long, uniform fibres for superior quality — all of which add to its cost and make it a luxury product.

Explanation:

Paragraph 5 gives four reasons silk is costly: labour-intensive cultivation, limited production due to natural factors, need for specialised knowledge and craftsmanship, and careful selection of quality fibres.

Q.12 [5 marks]

According to the passage, mention the top two countries that produce silk.

Answer: China and India. China is the largest producer of silk in the world, and India is the second largest.

Explanation:

Paragraph 1 states: 'India is the second largest producer of silk in the world after China.'

Q.13 [5 marks]

"Factors like climate, availability of quality mulberry leaves and time required by silkworms to complete their lifecycle are important factors for the production of silk." State any one inference that can be drawn from this.

Answer: One inference is that silk production is heavily dependent on natural and environmental conditions that cannot be easily controlled or accelerated, which limits the scale of production and contributes to its high cost.

Explanation:

The factors listed (climate, mulberry leaf availability, silkworm lifecycle time) are all natural constraints.

An inference is that silk production cannot be mass-produced artificially and is inherently limited by nature.

Q.14 [5 marks]

Complete the following with a suitable reason from the text: Though silk is considered one of the strongest fibres, it is _____.

Answer: vulnerable to damage — it loses up to 20% of its strength when wet, has poor elasticity (remaining stretched if elongated), can be weakened by too much sunlight, and may be attacked by insects if left dirty.

Explanation:

Paragraph 3 lists silk's weaknesses despite its strength: loses 20% strength when wet, poor elasticity, weakened by sunlight, and attacked by insects if dirty.

Q.15 [5 marks]

Based on the given text, mention the states which produced the most and the least amount of raw silk in India in the year 2021.

Answer: Most: Karnataka (8483 metric tonnes). Least: UP / Uttar Pradesh (179

metric tonnes).

Explanation:

The passage states Karnataka was the highest producer at 8483 metric tonnes, and UP trailed behind at 179 metric tonnes.

Section C — Grammar

Grammar (1-3 marks each)

Q.16 [1 mark]

Complete the sentence suitably: 104 kgs of mulberry leaves eaten by 3000 silkworms results in _____.

Answer: 1 kg of silk.

Explanation:

Paragraph 4 states: 'To produce 1 kg of silk, 104 kg of mulberry leaves must be eaten by 3000 silkworms.'

Q.17 [1 mark]

With reference to the given passage, give one reason why silk production is considered labour-intensive.

Answer: Silk production is considered labour-intensive because the silk fabric is carefully derived from the larva of silkworms which spin silk threads around themselves to make cocoons, and this intensive work can only be carried out with specialised knowledge and expertise by skilled artisans.

Explanation:

Paragraph 5 explains that silk fabric must be carefully derived from silkworm cocoons and requires specialised knowledge, expertise, and skilled craftsmanship.

Q.18 [1 mark]

Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the brackets, for the given portion of a letter: "Thank you for _____ (consider) my application. I look forward to working in your organization."

Answer: considering

Explanation:

The phrase 'Thank you for' is followed by a gerund (verb + ing).

So 'consider' becomes 'considering.'

Q.19 [1 mark]

Read the given sentence. Identify the error and supply the correction: Ninety-seven percent of the Earth's water is salty ocean water and another two percent is trapping in the Earth's ice caps and glaciers.

Answer: Error: trapping. Correction: trapped. (The sentence should read 'is trapped' as it is in passive voice.)

Explanation:

The sentence requires passive voice — 'is trapped' instead of 'is trapping' — because the water is being held (trapped) in ice caps, not actively trapping something.

Q.20 [1 mark]

Yukti and Sanjay had a conversation about going to a restaurant. Report Yukti's question: "Does this restaurant serve good South Indian food?"

Answer: Yukti asked Sanjay if/whether that restaurant served good South Indian food.

Explanation:

In reported speech, 'does' is removed, 'this' changes to 'that', present tense 'serve' changes to past tense 'served', and the yes/no question is introduced with 'if' or 'whether.'

Q.21 [1 mark]

Read the dialogue between Amit and his sister Ananya, regarding her travel to the railway station.

Amit: Are you sure you can manage to go to the railway station on your own?

Ananya: Oh yes! I have already booked a cab.

Select the correct option to report the above dialogue.

Amit asked Ananya _____, to go to the railway station on her own. Ananya replied in the affirmative and said that she had already booked a cab.

(a) if she is sure she can manage

(b) if she was sure she could manage <<

(c) if she surely can manage

(d) if she was sure to manage

Explanation:

In reported speech, 'are' changes to 'was' and 'can' changes to 'could'.

The correct form is 'if she was sure she could manage.'

Q.22 [1 mark]

Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete the sentence taken from a book about 'Birds': Each year, thousands of birds _____ (migrate/immigrate/emigrate) southwards to avoid the harsh winter, embarking on an incredible journey that spans thousands of miles.

(a) migrate <<

(b) immigrate

(c) emigrate

(d) migrated

Explanation:

'Migrate' means to move from one region to another, especially seasonally.

'Immigrate' means to come into a country, and 'emigrate' means to leave a country.

Birds moving southwards seasonally is migration.

Q.23 [1 mark]

Identify and correct the error in the given line taken from an agency's advertisement: Tell us much about your project and we'll select suitable candidates for you to hire.

Answer: Error: much. Correction: more. ('Tell us more about your project' is the correct usage.)

Explanation:

'Much' is incorrect here.

The correct word is 'more' — 'Tell us more about your project' is the standard expression.

Q.24 [1 mark]

Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line taken from an article about growing obesity: Obesity in teenage children is a major concern between parents today.

(a) Error: teenage, Correction: teenagers

(b) Error: concern, Correction: concerns

(c) Error: between, Correction: among <<

(d) Error: today, Correction: now

Explanation:

'Between' is used for two entities, while 'among' is used for more than two.

Since 'parents' refers to many parents in general, 'among' is the correct preposition.

Q.25 [1 mark]

Complete the given narrative with the correct option to fill in the blank: Yesterday, Tanu walked to the park and _____ a breezy evening.

(a) to enjoying

(b) will enjoy

(c) enjoyed <<

(d) did enjoyed

Explanation:

The sentence is in past tense ('Yesterday, Tanu walked'), so the verb must also be in simple past tense: 'enjoyed.'

Q.26 [1 mark]

Report the dialogue between two friends by completing the sentence.

Bhawna: I finished the project yesterday.

Sohail: That's great! Are you going to present it tomorrow?

Bhawna told Sohail that _____. Sohail responded that it was great and asked if she were going to present it the next day.

Answer: she had finished the project the previous day / the day before.

Explanation:

In reported speech, 'I' changes to 'she', 'finished' changes to 'had finished', and 'yesterday' changes to 'the previous day' or 'the day before.'

Q.27 [1 mark]

Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the notice on a school notice board: We are pleased to announce that our Annual Sports Day _____ on 30th April, 2025 at the school playground from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

(a) is held

(b) will be held <<

(c) had been held

(d) to be held

Explanation:

The event is in the future (30th April, 2025), so the future passive 'will be held' is correct.

Section D — Literature

Textbook Questions (2-5 marks each)

Q.28 [2 marks]

Complete the slogan on "Save Earth", by filling in the blank with the correct option: Lets join hands, cultivate conservation, and _____ a greener tomorrow for generations to come.

(a) ensuring
(b) ensure <<
(c) ensures
(d) ensured

Explanation:
The sentence uses parallel structure with base forms: 'join,' 'cultivate,' and 'ensure.'
The base form 'ensure' maintains the parallel structure.

Q.29 [2 marks]

Identify the error and supply the correction for the following note in an air purifier's instruction manual: The plug should fit upto the outlet. If it doesn't fit, do not force it in.

Answer: Error: upto. Correction: into. ('The plug should fit into the outlet' is the correct usage.)

Explanation:
'Upto' is incorrect in this context.
A plug fits 'into' an outlet, not 'upto' it.
'Into' indicates insertion, which is what happens with a plug and outlet.

OR

Q.30 [2 marks]

(Q4 — Attempt any ONE) (a) You are Soumya Hansal / Sumit Hansal living at F-32, Shanti Nagar, Vayugarh. Seeing the inadequate healthcare infrastructure in your town, write a letter to the MLA of your area, in about 120 words, suggesting the need for improving existing healthcare facilities and creating more "Wellness Centres" including a specialized hospital for children and women. OR (b) You are Risha Khan / Zuhaan Khan, the sports captain of Highrise Public School, New Line, Rai Nagar. You believe that games and sports are an integral part of a student's life. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily, in about 120 words, sharing your views on the importance of physical education and suggesting the need to establish a

dedicated sports university, so that students can pursue and focus on their favourite sport.

Answer: This is a letter-writing question. Students must write a formal letter in about 120 words following the proper format (sender's address, date, receiver's address, subject, salutation, body, closing). Option (a) requires a letter to the MLA about healthcare improvements, and option (b) requires a letter to the editor about physical education and a sports university.

Explanation:

Formal letter writing requires proper format and persuasive content.

For (a): address healthcare gaps, suggest Wellness Centres and specialized hospitals.

For (b): argue for physical education importance and a dedicated sports university.

OR

Q.31 [2 marks]

(Q5 — Attempt any ONE) (a) In the past few years, the teaching-learning process has taken a leap and gone beyond the four walls of the classroom. Today, it has become possible to learn not just by sitting in a physical classroom, but from anywhere. Given below is a chart depicting the differences between E-learning and Classroom learning. Write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words, assessing the benefits and drawbacks of both, by selecting features that support your analysis.

E-learning vs. Classroom learning:

E-learning: accessible anytime anywhere, at your own pace, no travel costs saves time.

Classroom learning: same place same time, caters to the needs of the class, transportation cost and time consuming.

OR

(b) Read the given details of a computer:

- electronic device that can store and process information
- makes life easy and simple
- physical description — monitor, keyboard, CPU and mouse
- computer technology used in all fields — education, medicine, commerce, banking

Analyse the details and write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words about the description and role of computers in today's world.

Answer: This is an analytical paragraph writing question. Students must write about 120 words. Option (a) requires comparing E-learning and Classroom learning using the given chart data. Option (b) requires describing computers and their role in modern life using the given bullet points.

Explanation:

Analytical paragraph writing requires a topic sentence, analysis of given data/details, comparison (for option a), and a concluding statement.

Q.32(a) [2 marks]

(Q6a) Why were there no leaves left on the trees?

(a) The locusts ate them up.
(b) An earthquake had occurred.
(c) There was a hailstorm. <<
(d) The animals grazed on them.

Explanation:

The extract mentions 'The hail has left nothing' and describes destruction by a storm (hailstorm).

The leaves, corn, and flowers were all destroyed by the hailstorm.

Q.32(b) [2 marks]

(Q6a) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the brackets: Lencho felt _____ (jubilant/devastated) when he saw his destroyed corn fields.

Answer: devastated

Explanation:

The extract says 'Lencho's soul was filled with sadness' and describes total destruction.

'Devastated' means extremely sad/shocked, which matches his feelings.

Q.32(c) [2 marks]

(Q6a) When Lencho says, "All our work, for nothing," what does he refer to? Explain in about 40 words.

Answer: Lencho refers to all the hard work his family put into cultivating their crops — planting, nurturing, and tending the corn and flowers — which has been completely destroyed by the hailstorm, leaving them with nothing to harvest or sell.

Explanation:

Lencho's statement expresses despair that all the agricultural labour of the season has been rendered worthless by the hailstorm's destruction of their crops.

Q.32(d) [2 marks]

(Q6a) Why would Lencho have preferred a plague of locusts to a hailstorm?

Answer: Lencho would have preferred a plague of locusts because locusts would have left more than the hailstorm did. The hailstorm destroyed everything completely — not a leaf remained on the trees, the corn was totally destroyed, and flowers were gone. Locusts typically eat selectively and leave some crops behind.

Explanation:

Lencho says 'A plague of locusts would have left more than this,' indicating that even locusts would not have caused as total a devastation as the hailstorm did.

Q.33(a) [2 marks]

(Q6b) What does the following line tell us about the character of Anil? "I think he knew I made a little money this way but he did not seem to mind."

Answer: This line reveals that Anil is a kind, understanding, and generous person.

He is aware that Hari Singh skims a small profit from daily purchases but chooses not to confront him about it. This shows Anil's tolerance, compassion, and willingness to overlook minor dishonesty, perhaps understanding Hari Singh's circumstances.

Explanation:

Anil's character is portrayed as tolerant and kind-hearted.

Despite knowing about the small financial dishonesty, he does not mind, showing he values the relationship over petty amounts.

Q.33(b) [2 marks]

(Q6b) Which of the following best describes the realization Hari Singh had while working for Anil?

(a) that he would become a rich person one day

(b) that Anil was a very intelligent master but a miser

(c) that he would be able to accomplish a lot if he gets educated <<

(d) that Anil made a lot of money from his job

Explanation:

The extract states: 'I knew that once I could write like an educated man there would be no limit to what I could achieve.' This shows Hari Singh realized education would open unlimited possibilities for him.

Q.33(c) [2 marks]

(Q6b) What did Anil promise to teach Hari Singh, and how did Hari Singh feel about the opportunity to learn? Answer in about 40 words.

Answer: Anil promised to teach Hari Singh to cook, write his name, write whole sentences, and add numbers. Hari Singh felt grateful for this opportunity, as he believed that education would enable him to achieve anything — there would be no limit to what he could accomplish.

Explanation:

The extract mentions Anil teaching cooking, writing, and numbers.

Hari Singh expresses gratitude and recognizes education as the key to unlimited achievement.

Q.33(d) [2 marks]

(Q6b) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the brackets: The narrator earned extra money by making a/an _____ (profit/investment) of about a rupee a day.

Answer: profit

Explanation:

The extract states: 'usually making a profit of about a rupee a day.'

Q.34(a) [2 marks]

(Q7a) Complete the sentence appropriately: The speaker addresses the person he is speaking to as "my dear" because _____.

Answer: the speaker addresses her as 'my dear' because he has affection for her and is trying to gently convey an important truth — that people judge by outward appearance (like her yellow hair) rather than inner qualities, and only God can love her for herself alone.

Explanation:

The term 'my dear' indicates affection and a gentle tone.

The speaker is sharing a religious man's insight with someone he cares about.

Q.34(b) [2 marks]

(Q7a) The poet mentions "yellow hair". What is its significance in the context of the statement? Answer in about 40 words.

Answer: The 'yellow hair' represents physical beauty and outward appearance. Its significance is that people tend to love or admire someone based on external attributes like beautiful hair, rather than for their inner self or true character. Only God can look beyond physical appearance.

Explanation:

In the poem, 'yellow hair' symbolizes external beauty.

The religious man's text proves that humans are attracted to physical attributes, while only God can love a person for their inner self.

Q.34(c) [2 marks]

(Q7a) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the brackets: The poet suggests that God's love in comparison to that of a human being is _____ (selfish/selfless).

Answer: selfless

Explanation:

The poem states that only God could love you 'for yourself alone and not your yellow hair,' meaning God's love is unconditional and selfless — not based on physical appearance.

Q.34(d) [2 marks]

(Q7a) As per the above extract, what attributes does God not love a person for? Select the correct option.

1. Wealth 2. Physical appearance 3. Intelligence 4. Inner qualities 5. Youth

(a) 1 and 4 <<

(b) 3, 4, and 5

(c) 2 and 4

(d) Only 4

Explanation:

God loves a person 'for yourself alone' — meaning God does not love based on external or worldly attributes like Wealth (1) or Inner qualities (4) as separate considerations.

God's love is unconditional, for the whole person alone.

OR

Q.35(a) [2 marks]

(Q7b) Identify and name any one figure of speech in the above extract.

Answer: Metaphor — 'pads of velvet quiet' is a metaphor comparing the tiger's paws to velvet, suggesting soft, silent movement. Alternatively, 'quiet rage' is an oxymoron, combining contradictory ideas of quietness and rage.

Explanation:

'Pads of velvet quiet' is a metaphor (paws compared to velvet).

'Quiet rage' is an oxymoron (quiet and rage are contradictory).

Either answer is acceptable.

Q.35(b) [2 marks]

(Q7b) Fill in the blank with one word: The tiger's stalking on 'pads of velvet' suggests a movement that is _____.

Answer: silent / soft / noiseless / stealthy

Explanation:

Velvet is a soft, smooth fabric.

'Pads of velvet' suggests the tiger moves silently/softly, making no sound despite his size and power.

Q.35(c) [2 marks]

(Q7b) Based on the given lines from the poem, which words would best describe the feelings of the tiger?

(a) Calm and content

(b) Both subdued and angry <<

(c) Both frustrated and happy

(d) Both angry and famished

Explanation:

The tiger is in 'quiet rage' — he is subdued (quiet, confined to a cage) yet angry (rage).

He is not content, happy, or described as famished.

Q.35(d) [2 marks]

(Q7b) Select the option that applies the same rhyme scheme as the first four lines of the given extract.

(a) The people along the sand / All turn and look one way / They turn their back on the land / They look at the sea all day <<

(b) Along the sand, the people / All turn and look one way / They turn back on the sand / They look at the sea all day

(c) The people along the sand / Look one way and all turn / Their backs on the land / They look at the sea all day

(d) The people along the sand / They turn their back on the land / They look one way / At the sea all day.

Explanation:

The first four lines have the rhyme scheme ABCB (stripes/cage/quiet/rage — 'cage' and 'rage' rhyme).

Option A follows ABCB pattern (sand/way/land/day — 'way' and 'day' rhyme).

Q.36 [2 marks]

(Q8 — Answer any FOUR) (i) Mandela in his speech says, "The policy of apartheid created a deep and lasting wound in my country and my people." Explain the significance of the word "wound" as used by Mandela. (Nelson Mandela — Long Walk to Freedom)

Answer: The word 'wound' is used metaphorically by Mandela to describe the deep emotional, social, and psychological damage caused by apartheid. Just as a physical wound causes pain and takes time to heal, apartheid inflicted lasting suffering on South Africa and its people through racial discrimination, oppression, and injustice.

Explanation:

Mandela uses 'wound' as a metaphor for the lasting damage of apartheid — deep pain, social division, and psychological trauma inflicted on the nation and its people.

Q.37 [2 marks]

(Q8) (ii) 'Dust of Snow', by Robert Frost is a poem about nature and simplicity. Elaborate. (Dust of Snow)

Answer: In 'Dust of Snow,' Robert Frost uses a simple, everyday incident — a crow shaking down snow dust from a hemlock tree onto the speaker — to convey a profound message. The poem celebrates how even small, seemingly insignificant moments in nature can uplift our spirits and change our mood. The simplicity of the event transforms the speaker's day from one of regret to one of positivity.

Explanation:

The poem uses minimalist imagery (crow, hemlock, snow) to show how a brief interaction with nature can positively change one's perspective and save a day that seemed wasted.

Q.38 [2 marks]

(Q8) (iii) Explain the reasons for Rajvir's excitement on seeing the plantation and Pranjol's lack of enthusiasm. (Glimpses of India — Tea from Assam)

Answer: Rajvir was excited on seeing the tea plantation because it was his first time visiting Assam and seeing the vast green tea gardens. He had read extensively about tea and was fascinated by its history and legends. Pranjol lacked enthusiasm because he had grown up in Assam surrounded by tea plantations — they were a commonplace sight for him, not something novel or exciting.

Explanation:

Rajvir's excitement stems from novelty and his bookish knowledge of tea, while Pranjol's indifference comes from familiarity — he had seen tea gardens all his life.

Q.39 [2 marks]

(Q8) (iv) Analyze how Wells employs humour, rhyme, and exaggerated traits to not only entertain, but also educate readers about various wild animals. Explain. (How to Tell Wild Animals)

Answer: Carolyn Wells uses humour through witty descriptions (e.g., if a large animal hugs you very hard, it's a Bear), rhyme to make the poem memorable and entertaining (consistent AABB rhyme scheme), and exaggerated traits to create vivid, amusing images of animals. These techniques make learning about wild animals fun and memorable, turning potentially dry zoological information into engaging poetry.

Explanation:

Wells combines humour (ironic survival tips), rhyme (catchy verse form), and hyperbole (exaggerated animal behaviors) to make the poem both entertaining and educational.

Q.40 [2 marks]

(Q8) (v) Mijbil's transportation to England was no less than a nightmare for the author. Justify the statement using incidents from the lesson. (Mijbil the Otter)

Answer: Mijbil's transportation was nightmarish because: (1) The airline did not allow animals in the passenger cabin, so Maxwell had to book a different airline and arrange a special box. (2) Mijbil tore the lining of the box and injured himself, arriving at the airport covered in blood. (3) On the plane, Mijbil escaped from the box and caused chaos among passengers. These incidents made the journey extremely stressful.

Explanation:

The transportation involved multiple problems: airline restrictions, Mijbil injuring himself in the box, and the otter escaping on the plane — all making it a nightmarish experience.

Q.41 [2 marks]

(Q9 — Answer any TWO) (i) Analyze how Herriot uses Tricki and Mrs. Pumphrey's relationship to comment on societal attitudes towards pets and the responsibilities associated with their care. (A Triumph of Surgery)

Answer: Herriot uses Mrs. Pumphrey's overindulgent care of Tricki to comment on how some pet owners project human emotions onto their animals, often to the pets' detriment. Mrs. Pumphrey's excessive feeding and luxurious lifestyle led to Tricki's obesity and illness. Herriot contrasts this with his practical approach — simple diet, exercise, and fresh air — which quickly restored Tricki's health. This highlights that true pet care requires responsible, informed decisions rather than emotional indulgence.

Explanation:

The story critiques overindulgent pet ownership through Mrs. Pumphrey's character, contrasting it with Herriot's practical veterinary care.

Q.42 [2 marks]

(Q9) (ii) Today reading books is on the decline because of the prevalence of electronic media. Contrarily, earth is saved by a 'Book' in the chapter "The Book That Saved the Earth". Elaborate.

Answer: In 'The Book That Saved the Earth,' the Martians planned to invade Earth but abandoned their plan after misinterpreting a nursery rhyme book ('Mother Goose'). Think-Tank, the Martian leader, misread the rhymes as evidence that Earthlings were powerful and dangerous. Ironically, a simple book of nursery rhymes saved the Earth from invasion. This contrasts with today's declining book readership due to electronic media, highlighting the ironic power of books.

Explanation:

The story shows the ironic power of books — a nursery rhyme book scared off Martian invaders, saving Earth.

Q.43 [2 marks]

(Q9) (iii) Discuss the character development of Griffin, as he grapples with the repercussions of his actions and attempts to navigate a world, where his once extraordinary abilities have become a burden. (Footprints without Feet)

Answer: Griffin's character development shows a descent from a brilliant scientist

to a lawless fugitive. Initially, his invisibility seemed like an extraordinary power, but it progressively became a burden. He burned down his landlord's house, had to wander naked in cold weather, resorted to stealing, and terrorized people in Iping village. His inability to become visible again, combined with growing paranoia and violence, transformed his 'gift' into a curse. His arc illustrates how power without moral responsibility leads to isolation and self-destruction.

Explanation:

Griffin's character arc moves from brilliant scientist to desperate criminal.

His invisibility becomes a burden as he cannot live normally and grows increasingly violent and isolated.

OR

Q.44 [2 marks]

(Q10 — Answer any ONE) (a) Amanda and Valli both represent a longing for freedom. Examine the above observation with reference to the two texts. (Amanda and Madam Rides the Bus) OR (b) In 'The Ball Poem', Berryman explores the themes of loss, growing up, and transformation. Mandela also experienced loss of freedom and suffering along with his countrymen during his growing years on the basis of his race and colour. Compare and contrast the commonality of themes in both the texts. (The Ball Poem and Nelson Mandela — Long Walk to Freedom)

Answer: Option (a): Amanda longs for freedom from her mother's constant nagging — she escapes into fantasy worlds (mermaid, orphan, Rapunzel) where she is free from adult control. Valli longs for the freedom to explore the world beyond her village — she plans a solo bus ride. Both represent young people's desire for independence, but Amanda's freedom is imaginary while Valli's is real.

Option (b): In 'The Ball Poem,' the boy experiences loss of his ball (symbolizing childhood innocence) and must learn to cope — a necessary part of growing up. Mandela experienced loss of freedom under apartheid. Both texts explore how loss leads to transformation and maturity.

Explanation:

Both options require comparing two texts thematically.

Option (a) compares freedom-seeking in Amanda and Valli.

Option (b) compares themes of loss and transformation.

OR

Q.45 [2 marks]

(Q11 — Answer any ONE) (a) Horace ends up in prison only to regret that a man should not trust anyone blindly without finding out the truth. Do you think his own foolishness was responsible for his arrest? Give a reasoned answer. (A Question of Trust) OR (b) Matilda's character embodies the journey of change or progression throughout the story, encapsulating the transformations she endured as a consequence of her experiences, trials, and engagements with other characters. In the light of the above information, trace the transformation seen in Matilda's character in the story. (The Necklace)

Answer: Option (a): Yes, Horace's own foolishness was largely responsible for his arrest. He was an experienced thief yet was easily deceived by a young woman who pretended to be the lady of the house. He blindly trusted her, removed his gloves at her request (leaving fingerprints), and stole the jewels she specified. His overconfidence and gullibility made him an easy target.

Option (b): Matilda transforms dramatically. Initially vain and obsessed with luxury, she borrows a diamond necklace for a ball and loses it. Over ten years of hard labour to repay the replacement debt, she transforms from a dreamy, vain woman into a hardened, practical working woman. The final irony — the necklace was fake — underscores how her pursuit of appearances led to her complete transformation.

Explanation:

Both options require character analysis.

Option (a) analyzes Horace's foolishness.

Option (b) traces Matilda's transformation from vanity to hard-won maturity.