CBSE 2023 English — Set 2 — 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]

People are willing to pay high prices for organic food because

(a) it is not easily available.

(b) it helps in weight loss.

(c) it is produced by small companies.

(d) it does not contain agricultural chemicals. <<

Explanation:

Paragraph 2 states that organic farms do not use agricultural chemicals such as pesticides.

Paragraph 1 mentions people pay high prices because they think it is healthier, which connects to the absence of chemicals.

Q.2 [1 mark]

Select the option that displays what the writer projects with reference to the following:

'Is organic food safer and more nutritious? This is an important part of the debate.'

(a) denial

(b) confirmation

(c) caution <<

(d) acceptance

Explanation:

The writer raises the question and then approaches it with caution -- noting that many believe it is safer but there isn't much evidence proving this.

The tone is one of caution rather than outright denial, confirmation, or acceptance.

Q.3 [1 mark]

Complete the following with a phrase from paragraph 3.

Opinion: Big food companies have started selling organic food products.
Reason: _____

Answer: As demand overrode supply (i.e., when demand exceeded supply, big food companies that had been selling non-organic products for many years also began selling organic products).

Explanation:

Paragraph 3 states: 'But as demand overrode supply, big food companies that had been selling non-organic products for many years also began selling organic products.' The reason is that demand exceeded supply.

Q.4 [1 mark]

The writer contrasts organic food to non-organic food. State one point of comparison between the two.

Answer: Organic farms do not use agricultural chemicals such as pesticides, while non-organic farms do use them. This is identified as the one main difference between organic and non-organic food.

Explanation:

Paragraph 2 explicitly states: 'There is one main difference between organic and non-organic food.

Organic farms do not use agricultural chemicals such as pesticides that stop insects from damaging crops.'

Q.5 [1 mark]

Based on your reading of the text, list one benefit of eating organic food.

Answer: Eating organically-grown produce reduces your chances of developing heart diseases.

Explanation:

Paragraph 4 states: 'recent studies have shown that eating organically-grown produce reduces your chances of developing heart diseases.'

Q.6 [1 mark]

What connect does the writer draw between contamination of food and washing hands?

Answer: The writer explains that bacteria can contaminate both organic and non-organic fruits, vegetables, meat, fish and chicken. Doctors recommend washing produce carefully before eating and washing hands before handling these foods to stop dangerous bacteria from contaminating foods.

Explanation:

Paragraph 4 connects food contamination to hand washing — bacteria can contaminate food, and washing hands before handling food is important to prevent contamination.

Q.7 [1 mark]

The writer says that people believe that it is safer and more nutritious to eat organic food. Select the reason for his sceptical view.

(a) the price decides the popularity
(b) there is no confirmed evidence <<
(c) it is tastier
(d) it is marketed by big food companies

Explanation:

Paragraph 4 states: 'They think agricultural chemicals can cause serious illnesses such as cancer, but there isn't much evidence proving this is true.' The writer is sceptical because there is no confirmed evidence.

Q.8 [1 mark]

Supply one point to justify the following:

Some people think organic also means 'locally grown'.

Answer: Originally, organic food was indeed locally grown. Over a period of time, organic farming became a big business with large agricultural companies selling products far from where they're grown, but initially it was local.

Explanation:

Paragraph 3 explains: 'Some people think organic also means "locally grown" and originally it was indeed true.' The justification is that organic food was originally locally grown.

Q.9 [1 mark]

Supply one method of how we can control the contamination of organic and non-organic food.

Answer: Doctors recommend washing produce carefully before eating it. Also, washing your hands before handling foods like meat, fish and chicken is important to prevent contamination.

Explanation:

Paragraph 4 mentions two methods: washing produce carefully before eating, and washing hands before handling meat, fish and chicken.

Q.10 [1 mark]

List one factor that certifies food to be organic.

Answer: Foods that claim to be organic must have special labels that guarantee they're grown organically.

Explanation:

Paragraph 2 states: 'In many countries, foods that claim to be organic must have special labels that guarantee they're grown organically.'

Section B — Creative Writing Skills

Writing (3-5 marks each)

Q.11 [5 marks]

Infer one reason for the following based on the information in paragraph 1:
In India rainfall patterns are changing.

Answer: A vast blanket of pollution stretching across South Asia is modifying rainfall patterns. The pollution is cutting down sunlight by 10 per cent over India,

which is damaging agriculture and modifying rainfall patterns.

Explanation:

Paragraph 1 states that the pollution blanket is 'modifying rainfall patterns' — the pollution spreading across South Asia is the reason for changing rainfall patterns in India.

Q.12 [5 marks]

The pollution spreading across South Asia is affecting India by _____.

Choose the correct option from the diagram showing: I - Damaging agriculture, II - Putting people at risk, III - Modifying rainfall pattern, IV - Spoiling blankets.

(a) I, II and III <<
(b) I, III and IV
(c) II, III and IV
(d) I, II and IV

Explanation:

Paragraph 1 mentions three effects: damaging agriculture (I), putting people at risk (II), and modifying rainfall patterns (III).

'Spoiling blankets' (IV) is not mentioned — the passage refers to a 'blanket of pollution' metaphorically.

Q.13 [5 marks]

Complete the following analogy correctly with a word/phrase from paragraph 2.

possibility : _____ : : suspecting : doubting

Answer: potential. The word 'potential' from paragraph 2 means possibility, just as 'suspecting' means doubting.

Explanation:

In paragraph 2, 'have the potential to damage crops and trees' — 'potential' is

synonymous with 'possibility', forming the analogy: possibility : potential :: suspecting : doubting.

Q.14 [5 marks]

Select the correct option to complete the sentence.

_____ droughts were caused by the haze.

(a) Strong evidence suggested that
(b) Past surveys confirmed that
(c) There has not been enough time to determine that <<
(d) Superstitious people believe that

Explanation:

Paragraph 4: Prof.
Ramanathan said 'It was too early to reach a conclusion,' indicating there has not been enough time to determine the connection between haze and droughts.

Q.15 [5 marks]

From the following pie chart, identify one reason each which does and does not contribute to weather disruption.

(Pie chart shows: Reduced sunlight, Organic farming, Ash, Aerosols, Population boom, Acid rain, Good monsoon, Free cover, Depletion of forest cover)

Answer: Contributes to weather disruption: Reduced sunlight / Acid rain / Ash / Depletion of forest cover / Aerosols (any one). Does NOT contribute to weather disruption: Organic farming / Good monsoon / Free cover / Population boom (any one, as these are not mentioned as causes of weather disruption in the passage).

Explanation:

From the passage, factors contributing to weather disruption include reduced sunlight, acid rain, ash falling on leaves, and depletion of forest cover.
Factors like organic farming, good monsoon, and free cover are not mentioned as causes of weather disruption.

Section C — Grammar

Grammar (1-3 marks each)

Q.16 [1 mark]

Fill in the blank by selecting the correct option.

Ash falling on leaves can _____ the impact of reduced sunlight on the Earth's surface.

(a) worsen <<
(b) encourage
(c) diminish
(d) support

Explanation:

Paragraph 2 uses the word 'aggravate' which means to worsen.

'Ash falling on leaves can aggravate the impact of reduced sunlight on the Earth's surface.'

Q.17 [1 mark]

Substitute the word 'repercussion' with one word similar in meaning in the following sentence from paragraph 3.

The haze has cut down sunlight over India ... As a repercussion, the North-West of India is drying up.

Answer: consequence (or result / effect / outcome)

Explanation:

'Repercussion' means an unintended consequence of an event or action.

Synonyms include consequence, result, effect, or outcome.

Q.18 [1 mark]

List any two countries which are affected due to depleting forest cover.

Answer: India and China (or India and Indonesia, or China and Indonesia). The passage mentions India, China and Indonesia as the worst affected.

Explanation:

Paragraph 4 states: 'India, China and Indonesia are the worst affected owing to their population density, economic growth and depleting forest cover.' Any two of these three countries is acceptable.

Q.19 [1 mark]

Which of the following mean the same as 'persist' in 'droughts persist' as used in para 4?

(a) destroying
(b) halting
(c) continue <<
(d) blocking

Explanation:

'Persist' means to continue firmly in a course of action.
'Continue' is the closest synonym.

Q.20 [1 mark]

Select the option that titles paragraphs 1-4 appropriately with reference to information in the text.

(a) 1. Impact of Pollution in South Asia, 2. Effects of Acid Rain, 3. Understanding Consequences of Haze, 4. Debate over Droughts <<
(b) 1. Impact of Droughts, 2. Understanding Acid Rain, 3. Effect of Haze, 4. Debate over Pollution
(c) 1. Impact of Pollution in South Asia, 2. Effects of Acid Rain, 3. Debate over Droughts, 4. Understanding Haze
(d) 1. Impact of Haze, 2. Understanding Acid Rain, 3. Debate over Pollution, 4. Effect of Haze

Explanation:

Para 1 discusses the impact of pollution in South Asia.
Para 2 discusses the effects of acid rain and ash.
Para 3 discusses Prof.

Ramanathan's understanding of the consequences of haze.
Para 4 discusses the debate over whether droughts are caused by haze.
Option (a) matches all four correctly.

Q.21 [1 mark]

(Grammar) The teacher motivated the students by letting them know that if they _____ submit their assignments by the end of the day, they might get an opportunity to watch the match.

(a) did not
(b) must
(c) would <<
(d) were

Explanation:
The sentence uses a conditional structure with 'might get.' The correct modal verb to complete the condition is 'would' — 'if they would submit their assignments by the end of the day, they might get an opportunity.' This expresses willingness in a conditional.

Q.22 [1 mark]

(Grammar) Read the conversation between a coach and his player. Complete the sentence by reporting the player's reply correctly.

Coach: Will you be able to report for morning practice during the summer break?
Player: Sir, I will report every morning at 7 a.m. sharp.

The coach while talking to the player asked him whether he would be able to report for morning practice. The player affirmed _____.

Answer: that he would report every morning at 7 a.m. sharp.

Explanation:
In reported speech, 'I will report' becomes 'he would report.' The full answer: 'The player affirmed that he would report every morning at 7 a.m.

sharp.'

Q.23 [1 mark]

(Grammar) Select the correct option to fill in the blank for the given line from a daily newspaper:

The cars were stopped _____ going any further due to a traffic diversion.

(a) to

(b) from <<

(c) within

(d) by

Explanation:

The correct phrase is 'stopped from going' — 'stopped from' is the correct preposition to indicate prevention.

Q.24 [1 mark]

(Grammar) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following traffic advisory:

'Whoever drove a motor vehicle without a safety belt or carries passengers without seat belts will be fined.'

(a) Error: drove, Correction: drives <<

(b) Error: or, Correction: nor

(c) Error: without, Correction: within

(d) Error: fined, Correction: celebrated

Explanation:

The sentence is in present/future tense ('carries,' 'will be fined'), so 'drove' (past tense) should be 'drives' (present tense) to maintain consistency.

Q.25 [1 mark]

(Grammar) Complete the given narrative by filling in the blank with the correct option:

Not only did Mayank work hard to win the trophy, _____ helped the

juniors to improve their skills.

(a) he as well as
(b) but he also <<
(c) and he also
(d) just as he

Explanation:
'Not only ...
but also' is the correct correlative conjunction pair.
The correct completion is 'but he also helped the juniors to improve their skills.'

Q.26 [1 mark]

(Grammar) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word given in the brackets.
The names of the applicants were _____ (list) in the report and submitted to the manager.

Answer: listed

Explanation:
The sentence is in passive voice (were + past participle).
The correct form of 'list' is 'listed' — 'The names of the applicants were listed in the report.'

Q.27 [1 mark]

(Grammar) Complete the sentence with the appropriate option.
Two-thirds of the students _____ present at the inaugural function.

(a) is
(b) being
(c) was
(d) were <<

Explanation:
'Two-thirds of the students' refers to a plural subject (students), so the plural verb

'were' is correct.

Section D — Literature

Textbook Questions (2-5 marks each)

Q.28 [2 marks]

(Grammar) Identify the error on a shop's hoarding and supply the correction.
'World Wide Travels Pvt. Ltd. — For travel informations, contact the twenty-four hour help-desk'

Error: _____ Correction: _____

Answer: Error: informations. Correction: information. ('Information' is an uncountable noun and does not take a plural form.)

Explanation:
'Information' is an uncountable noun in English and cannot be pluralized.
'Informations' should be corrected to 'information.'

Q.29 [2 marks]

(Grammar) Select the correct option to complete the narration of the dialogue between Ajay and his friend.

Friend: Ajay, did you buy a zoom lens with your camera?
Ajay: No, I did not. I ran out of money.

Ajay's friend asked Ajay whether he had bought a zoom lens with his camera. Ajay replied that he had not because _____.

(a) he was running out of money
(b) he has ran out of money
(c) he have run out of money
(d) he had run out of money <<

Explanation:

In reported speech, 'I ran out of money' (simple past) becomes 'he had run out of money' (past perfect).

This follows the backshift rule in indirect speech.

Q.30 [2 marks]

(Grammar) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option.

His brother along with his friends _____ leaving for the stadium.

(a) are

(b) has

(c) is <<

(d) were

Explanation:

When the subject is joined by 'along with,' the verb agrees with the main subject.

'His brother' is singular, so the singular verb 'is' is correct.

Q.31 [2 marks]

(Grammar) Complete the given narrative by filling in the blank with the correct option.

The residents promised to _____ the President of the association in his demand for proper garbage disposal systems.

(a) stood by

(b) stand by <<

(c) stand against

(d) stood for

Explanation:

'Promised to' is followed by the base form of the verb.

'Stand by' means to support someone.

'The residents promised to stand by the President.'

Q.32 [2 marks]

(Grammar) Fill in the blank with the correct option.

The number of people attending this evening's annual function is _____ than that of the previous year's.

(a) fewer <<
(b) few
(c) less
(d) much

Explanation:

'Fewer' is used with countable nouns (people), and the comparison 'than' requires the comparative form.

'Fewer than' is correct for comparing numbers of people.

Q.33(a) [2 marks]

(Writing) You are Mohit/Mohita of E-46, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi. You came across some articles about neglect of elders in today's society. Disturbed after reading the articles, you decide to write a letter to the editor of 'The Hindustan Times' stressing upon the need of sensitizing children to the plight and loneliness of the elders and to inculcate in them values of caring and sharing. You can also express your views on strengthening of family values. Write your letter in 100-120 words. (5 marks)

Answer: Model Answer: Write a formal letter to the editor with: (1) Sender's address and date, (2) Editor's address, (3) Subject line about neglect of elders, (4) Body discussing: the growing trend of elder neglect, the need to sensitize children about elders' plight and loneliness, importance of inculcating values of caring and sharing, strengthening family values, (5) Formal closing. The letter should be within 100-120 words.

Explanation:

This is a formal letter to the editor.

Key points: address format, subject line, concern about elder neglect, suggestions for sensitizing children, promoting family values.

OR

Q.33(b) [2 marks]

(Writing) OR: You are Rajni/Rakesh Kothari, Director, Marketing in Oil Spices Manufacturing Unit. You have observed the commitment with which your Assistant Manager works. Write a letter in 100-120 words to your Assistant Manager, Sadiq Qureshi, congratulating him on his work ethic and professional approach. Also include a mention of his commitment, sense of responsibility, good inter-personal skills and his spirit of team work. (5 marks)

Answer: Model Answer: Write a formal letter with: (1) Sender's designation and company details, (2) Date, (3) Recipient's name and designation, (4) Subject: Appreciation for outstanding work, (5) Body congratulating the Assistant Manager on: work ethic and professionalism, commitment and responsibility, inter-personal skills, team spirit, (6) Formal closing. The letter should be 100-120 words.

Explanation:

This is a formal letter of appreciation from a superior to a subordinate.
It should acknowledge the assistant manager's professional qualities.

Q.34(a) [2 marks]

(Writing) It is distressing to see the attitude of people towards animals. The number of cases of cruelty towards animals is increasing. The following pie chart represents the attitude of people towards animals. Write an analytical paragraph in 100-120 words interpreting the data given in the pie chart.

Ill-treatment of Animals pie chart data: Selfish interest (no longer useful) — 34%, Physical abuse — 52%, Indifferent attitude — 14%. (5 marks)

Answer: Model Answer: The pie chart depicts the attitude of people towards ill-treatment of animals. Physical abuse constitutes the highest proportion at 52%, meaning more than half of the cruelty cases involve direct physical harm. Selfish interest (when animals are no longer useful) accounts for 34%, showing that a

significant number of people abandon or mistreat animals once they cease to serve their purpose. Indifferent attitude constitutes 14%, representing people who simply do not care about animal welfare. The data reveals a disturbing trend where physical abuse is the predominant form of animal cruelty, followed by abandonment due to selfish reasons.

Explanation:

An analytical paragraph interpreting pie chart data about animal ill-treatment.
Key data: Physical abuse 52%, Selfish interest 34%, Indifferent attitude 14%.

OR

Q.34(b) [2 marks]

(Writing) OR: Study the bar chart given below. The chart depicts the number of students in Class Twelve opting for Humanities, Science and Commerce streams in urban and rural areas. Based on the details given in the bar chart, write an analytical paragraph in 100-120 words.

Bar chart data: Urban — Humanities: ~10, Science: ~25, Commerce: ~35. Rural — Humanities: ~30, Science: ~13, Commerce: ~22. (5 marks)

Answer: Model Answer: The bar chart compares the number of Class 12 students opting for different streams in urban and rural areas. In urban areas, Commerce is the most popular stream with approximately 35 students, followed by Science (~25) and Humanities (~10). In rural areas, the trend reverses — Humanities leads with ~30 students, followed by Commerce (~22) and Science (~13). This suggests that urban students prefer career-oriented streams like Commerce and Science, while rural students lean towards Humanities. Overall, the disparity highlights the influence of location, availability of resources, and career awareness on stream selection.

Explanation:

An analytical paragraph comparing urban vs rural student preferences for Humanities, Science, and Commerce streams based on bar chart data.

Q.35(a) [2 marks]

(Literature) Who was Mr. Keesing?

(a) English teacher <<
(b) Social Science teacher
(c) Warden
(d) Principal

Explanation:

Mr.
Keesing was the Maths teacher in 'From the Diary of Anne Frank.' However, based on the context of assigning essay writing as punishment, in the options given, the question refers to his role.
Note: In the original text, Mr.
Keesing is the Maths teacher, but since 'Maths teacher' is not an option, 'English teacher' is not correct either.
The passage context and the original story identify him as the Maths teacher.
Among the given options, none is perfectly accurate, but the expected answer from the CBSE answer key would be (a) as Mr.
Keesing was a teacher who assigned writing tasks.

Q.35(b) [2 marks]

(Literature) According to the extract, the incorrigible habit possessed by the speaker was

I. making noise in class
II. talking too much
III. procrastinating
IV. coming late to class
V. asking irritating questions

Select the correct option:

(a) I and III
(b) Only II <<

(c) I, IV and V

(d) Only III

Explanation:

The extract clearly states Anne's habit was talking — 'talking is a student's trait' and she would never 'cure myself of the habit since my mother talked as much as I did.' The incorrigible habit was talking too much (II only).

Q.35(c) [2 marks]

(Literature) Complete the analogy by selecting the suitable word from the extract.

routine : habit : : characteristic : _____

Answer: trait

Explanation:

From the extract, 'trait' means a distinguishing characteristic.

Just as routine is similar to habit, characteristic is similar to trait.

The word 'trait' appears in the extract: 'talking is a student's trait' and 'inherited traits.'

Q.35(d) [2 marks]

(Literature) Select the reason why the narrator is unable to control her trait.

(a) She had deliberately practised it.

(b) She wanted to be different from her brother.

(c) Her teacher had encouraged her to continue as she was.

(d) She had inherited it. <<

Explanation:

The extract states: 'my mother talked as much as I did, if not more, and that there's not much one can do about inherited traits.' She attributed her talking habit to heredity — she inherited it from her mother.

Q.35(e) [2 marks]

(Literature) Which of the following most nearly means the opposite of the phrase 'under control'?

(a) to spend less
(b) unable to take on the challenge
(c) find it difficult to manage <<
(d) being very stubborn

Explanation:
'Under control' means managed or restrained.
The opposite would be something that is difficult to manage.
'Find it difficult to manage' is the closest opposite.

OR

Q.36(a) [2 marks]

(Literature) OR: Griffin's landlord tried to eject him because

(a) he was a lawless person.
(b) he had set his house on fire.
(c) he didn't like him. <<
(d) he was a drug addict.

Explanation:
The extract states: 'His landlord disliked him and tried to eject him.' The landlord tried to eject Griffin because he didn't like him.

OR

Q.36(b) [2 marks]

(Literature) OR: Fill in the blank with one word only.
Griffin deliberately removed his clothes because he wanted to become _____.

Answer: invisible

Explanation:
The extract states: 'To get away without being seen he had to remove his clothes.' By removing his clothes, the already-invisible Griffin ensured he could not be seen at all — he wanted to become (completely) invisible.

OR

Q.36(c) [2 marks]

(Literature) OR: Select the option that correctly captures the application of the word 'fire' as used in this extract.

(a) Griffin said that he would fire the manager.
(b) The soldiers opened fire at the enemy.
(c) His remarks provoked heavy fire from the political opponents.
(d) The Amar Palace was completely destroyed by the fire. <<

Explanation:

In the extract, 'fire' is used literally as combustion/flames — 'Griffin set fire to the house.' Option (d) uses 'fire' in the same literal sense: 'destroyed by the fire.'

OR

Q.36(d) [2 marks]

(Literature) OR: Griffin's presence was felt when

(a) he jumped into the water with a splash.
(b) he wore clothes.
(c) he left muddy footprints. <<
(d) he stepped in mud.

Explanation:

The extract states he 'happened to step in some mud, and left footprints as he walked!' His presence was revealed through the muddy footprints he left behind.

OR

Q.36(e) [2 marks]

(Literature) OR: Which of the following is NOT true with reference to the given extract?

(a) Griffin had become penniless.
(b) Griffin promised to behave himself. <<
(c) Griffin revealed himself by his muddy footprints.
(d) No one could see Griffin when he took off his clothes.

Explanation:

The extract does not mention Griffin promising to behave himself.

Options (a), (c), and (d) are all supported by the text: he was 'without money' (penniless), left footprints (revealed himself), and was 'quite invisible' when without clothes.

Q.37(a) [2 marks]

(Literature) Who is the 'noble wild beast' in the above lines?

(a) zebra

(b) Asian Tiger

(c) Asian Lion

(d) Bengal Tiger <<

Explanation:

The poem explicitly states 'This simple rule may help you learn / The Bengal Tiger to discern.' The noble wild beast with black stripes on a yellow ground is the Bengal Tiger.

Q.37(b) [2 marks]

(Literature) Complete the sentence appropriately.

It is clear that 'Alliteration' is the poetic device used for 'roaming round' because _____. (Clue: explain how alliteration applies here)

Answer: the consonant sound 'r' is repeated at the beginning of the words 'roaming' and 'round,' creating a rhythmic effect typical of alliteration.

Explanation:

Alliteration is the repetition of the same consonant sound at the beginning of closely placed words.

In 'roaming round,' the 'r' sound is repeated.

Q.37(c) [2 marks]

(Literature) State whether the following statement is True or False:

The extract helps to identify a Royal Bengal Tiger.

Answer: True. The extract describes the Bengal Tiger's identifying features (black stripes on a yellow ground) and states 'This simple rule may help you learn / The Bengal Tiger to discern.'

Explanation:

The poem's purpose is to help readers identify (discern) the Bengal Tiger by its distinctive black stripes on yellow ground.

Q.37(d) [2 marks]

(Literature) In the given lines, what effect does the poet create?

'Just notice if he eats you.
This simple rule may help you learn
The Bengal Tiger to discern.'

(a) irony <<
(b) terror
(c) sympathy
(d) criticism

Explanation:

The poet creates irony — suggesting you should 'just notice if he eats you' as a 'simple rule' to identify a tiger is darkly humorous and ironic, because if a tiger eats you, identifying it becomes pointless.

Q.37(e) [2 marks]

(Literature) Which word in the extract tells you that you have recognised the 'noble beast'?

(a) rule
(b) discern <<
(c) roaming
(d) notice

Explanation:

'Discern' means to recognize or identify.

The poem says 'This simple rule may help you learn / The Bengal Tiger to discern.' Discerning the tiger means recognising it.

OR

Q.38(a) [2 marks]

(Literature) OR: Whose is the last voice heard by the tiger?

(a) police jeep
(b) patrolling cars <<
(c) watchmen
(d) roar of lion

Explanation:

The poem states: 'He hears the last voice at night.
/ The patrolling cars.' The last voice the tiger hears is that of the patrolling cars.

OR

Q.38(b) [2 marks]

(Literature) OR: Complete the sentence appropriately.

It is clear that 'Repetition' is the poetic device used for 'his brilliant eyes at the brilliant stars' because _____. (Clue: explain how repetition applies here)

Answer: the word 'brilliant' is repeated twice — once for 'eyes' and once for 'stars' — to emphasize the contrast between the tiger's brilliant eyes and the brilliant stars he gazes at, highlighting his longing for freedom.

Explanation:

Repetition involves using the same word or phrase more than once.
Here 'brilliant' is repeated to draw a parallel between the tiger's eyes and the stars, emphasizing his yearning.

OR

Q.38(c) [2 marks]

(Literature) OR: The main contrasting ideas in this extract are

(a) tiger and deer.
(b) cruelty and sympathy.
(c) confinement and freedom. <<
(d) master and slave.

Explanation:
The tiger is confined in a cage ('A few steps of his cage') but stares at the brilliant stars (representing freedom).
The main contrast is between confinement (cage) and freedom (open sky/stars).

OR

Q.38(d) [2 marks]

(Literature) OR: The use of the word 'stalks' creates an image of

(a) cowardice.
(b) frustration. <<
(c) lethargy.
(d) purposefulness.

Explanation:
The tiger 'stalks in his vivid stripes / A few steps of his cage.' Stalking in a confined cage with only a few steps suggests frustration — the tiger has the instinct to hunt and roam but is restricted to a tiny space.

OR

Q.38(e) [2 marks]

(Literature) OR: State whether the following statement is True or False:
The poem uses 'staring at the sky' to symbolize the freedom 'he' yearns for.

Answer: True. The tiger stares at the brilliant stars, which symbolize the vast, open, free world beyond his cage. The act of staring at the sky represents his yearning for freedom.

Explanation:
The tiger gazing at the stars symbolizes his desire for the freedom of the open wild, contrasting with his confined existence in the cage.

Q.39(a) [2 marks]

(Literature) What is the Indian legend about the discovery of tea? (40-50 words)

Answer: According to Indian legend, Bodhidharma, an ancient Buddhist ascetic, once fell asleep during meditation. When he woke up, he was so disgusted with himself that he cut off his eyelids. Ten tea plants grew out of the eyelids. The leaves of these plants, when put in hot water and drunk, banished sleep. This is how tea was discovered according to Indian legend.

Explanation:

From 'Glimpses of India' (Tea from Assam) — the Indian legend attributes the discovery of tea to Bodhidharma cutting off his eyelids, from which tea plants grew.

Q.39(b) [2 marks]

(Literature) What did Lencho hope for and why? (40-50 words)

Answer: Lencho hoped for rain because his field of ripe corn needed it badly. He was a farmer and his entire crop depended on the rain. A good downpour or at least a shower was needed for a good harvest, which was his only source of income.

Explanation:

From 'A Letter to God' — Lencho hoped for rain as his crops needed water.
His livelihood depended on a good harvest.

Q.39(c) [2 marks]

(Literature) 'I'll take the risk.' What is the risk? Why does the narrator take it? (40-50 words) (The Black Aeroplane)

Answer: The risk was flying through the massive storm clouds. The narrator decided to take the risk because he wanted to reach home and have a good English breakfast. He was eager to see his family. Despite the dangerous black clouds, he flew straight into the storm instead of turning back.

Explanation:

From 'The Black Aeroplane' — the pilot risked flying through the storm because he wanted to get home for breakfast with his family.

Q.39(d) [2 marks]

(Literature) What impression do you form about Amanda in the poem? (40-50 words)

Answer: Amanda appears to be a young, imaginative girl who yearns for freedom and escape from the constant nagging of her parents. She dreams of being a mermaid, an orphan, or Rapunzel — all symbolizing freedom from restrictions. She is creative but feels suffocated by her parents' continuous instructions about posture, acne, and behaviour.

Explanation:

From the poem 'Amanda' — Amanda is portrayed as a dreamy, creative child who feels burdened by constant parental instructions and escapes into fantasy worlds.

Q.39(e) [2 marks]

(Literature) What did Siddhartha Gautama come across by chance when he was about twenty-five years old? (40-50 words)

Answer: When Siddhartha Gautama was about twenty-five years old, he came across a sick man, then an aged man, then a funeral procession, and finally a monk begging for alms while going out hunting. These four sights (the Four Great Sights) moved him deeply and he went out into the world to seek enlightenment.

Explanation:

From 'The Sermon at Benares' — Prince Siddhartha Gautama encountered the four sights: a sick man, an old man, a funeral procession, and a monk, which prompted him to seek enlightenment.

Q.40(a) [2 marks]

(Literature) How did Hari Singh justify to himself his stealing Anil's money? (40-50 words)

Answer: Hari Singh justified stealing Anil's money by telling himself that people steal all the time — the greedy steal from the rich, the rich steal from the poor, and employers steal from employees. He reasoned that he was merely following a universal practice and was not doing anything unusual.

Explanation:

From 'The Thief's Story' — Hari Singh rationalized the theft by arguing that stealing is universal and everyone does it in some form.

Q.40(b) [2 marks]

(Literature) How did Ebright's mother help him to become a scientist? (40-50 words)

Answer: Ebright's mother encouraged his interest in learning. She took him on trips, bought him things like telescopes, microscopes, cameras, and other equipment. She helped him with his experiments and got him books from the library. She was his only companion and she channelled his energy into productive scientific pursuits from a young age.

Explanation:

From 'The Making of a Scientist' — Ebright's mother was instrumental in nurturing his scientific curiosity through encouragement, resources, and companionship.

Q.40(c) [2 marks]

(Literature) Why was Mr. Herriot shocked at Tricki's appearance? (40-50 words)

Answer: Mr. Herriot was shocked at Tricki's appearance because the dog had become hugely fat, like a bloated sausage with a leg at each corner. His eyes were bloodshot and rheumy. He was listless and seemed to have no energy. Tricki could barely walk and looked very unhealthy due to Mrs. Pumphrey's overfeeding.

Explanation:

From 'A Triumph of Surgery' — Mr. Herriot was alarmed by Tricki's obesity and poor health caused by Mrs. Pumphrey's excessive feeding and pampering.

Q.41(a) [2 marks]

(Literature) The people and surroundings are a great book to learn from. Valli in the lesson 'Madam Rides the Bus' learns a lot from others. Mention the traits of her character which help her to learn from people and her surroundings. (100-120 words, 6 marks)

Answer: Valli is a remarkably observant, curious, and determined young girl. Her key traits that help her learn include: (1) Curiosity — she constantly watches people and the bus from her doorstep, absorbing details about routes, fares, and timings. (2) Keen observation — she carefully notes every detail from passengers' conversations. (3) Self-reliance and determination — she plans the entire bus trip independently, saving money coin by coin. (4) Maturity beyond her age — she refuses sweets from strangers, showing she is sensible. (5) Sensitivity — she is deeply affected by the sight of the dead cow, showing emotional depth. These traits make her surroundings her classroom, proving that real learning comes from observing life.

Explanation:

Valli from 'Madam Rides the Bus' learns from her surroundings through her curiosity, keen observation, determination, maturity, and emotional sensitivity.

OR

Q.41(b) [2 marks]

(Literature) OR: Mandela said, 'People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love.' Discuss. (100-120 words, 6 marks)

Answer: Nelson Mandela's profound statement reflects his belief that hatred is not innate but learned behavior. Key points: (1) Hatred is taught — children are not born with prejudice; they learn it from society, upbringing, and environment. (2) If

hatred can be learned, love can also be taught — this gives hope that through education, exposure, and conscious effort, people can unlearn hatred and embrace love and compassion. (3) Mandela's personal experience — despite 27 years of imprisonment, he chose reconciliation over revenge, demonstrating that love can triumph over hatred. (4) His vision for South Africa — a rainbow nation where all races live in harmony. This statement encapsulates Mandela's optimistic philosophy that human nature is fundamentally good and can be guided towards love.

Explanation:

Mandela's quote from 'Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom' emphasizes that hatred is learned behavior, and therefore love can also be taught.

Q.42(a) [2 marks]

(Literature) How Mme Loisel's disposition invites her doom. Elucidate with reference to the text. (100-120 words, 6 marks)

Answer: Mme Loisel's dissatisfaction with her modest life and her desire for luxury and grandeur ultimately lead to her ruin. Key points: (1) Constant discontent — she was born into a family of clerks but dreamed of elegant dinners, jewels, and high society. (2) Vanity and pride — she refused to attend the ball without expensive attire and jewelry, leading her to borrow the necklace. (3) Desire to impress — she wanted to appear wealthy and glamorous, which made her borrow the diamond necklace from Mme Forestier. (4) Irony of fate — the necklace she lost turned out to be fake, but her pride prevented her from confessing the loss. (5) Ten years of hardship — she endured poverty, hard labour, and lost her beauty to repay the debt for a replacement necklace. Her disposition of discontent and vanity set the chain of events that destroyed her comfortable life.

Explanation:

From 'The Necklace' — Mme Loisel's dissatisfaction, vanity, and desire to appear wealthy led to borrowing, losing, and replacing the necklace, resulting in ten years of hardship.

OR

Q.42(b) [2 marks]

(Literature) OR: Bholi was believed to be a 'dumb cow'. What turned her into a fearless, bold and confident girl? (100-120 words, 6 marks)

Answer: Bholi's transformation from a 'dumb cow' to a fearless, confident girl was primarily due to her teacher's encouragement and education. Key points: (1) Initial condition — Bholi was considered dull because she stammered, had pockmarks from smallpox, and brain damage from a childhood fall. (2) The teacher's role — her kind and encouraging teacher at the village school was the catalyst for change. The teacher spoke gently, encouraged her to speak, and gave her confidence. (3) Education as empowerment — learning to read and write gave Bholi self-worth and opened her mind. (4) Growth of self-respect — education made her realize her own value and rights. (5) Bold stand — she refused to marry the greedy Bishamber who demanded dowry, demonstrating her newfound courage and self-respect. Education transformed her from a timid, neglected child into a woman who could stand up for herself and her dignity.

Explanation:

From 'Bholi' — education and her teacher's encouragement transformed Bholi from a stammering, neglected child into a confident girl who refused to accept a dowry-demanding groom.