CBSE 2025 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]

1(i) Complete the sentence appropriately.

The characteristic aroma and flavour of cinnamon originate from its essential oil, primarily composed of _____. (Paragraph 1)

Answer: cinnamaldehyde

Explanation:

Paragraph 1 states that the distinct aroma and flavour of cinnamon derive from its essential oil and principal component, cinnamaldehyde, as well as numerous other constituents including eugenol.

Q.2 [1 mark]

1(ii) Based on the reading of the passage, examine, in about 40 words, how cinnamon derived from the trees is made fit to be used as a spice. (Paragraph 1)

Answer: Cinnamon is made by cutting the stems of cinnamon trees. The inner bark is then extracted and the woody parts are removed. When the bark dries, it forms strips that curl into rolls called cinnamon sticks. These sticks can be ground into fine cinnamon powder for use as a spice.

Explanation:

Paragraph 1 describes the process: cutting stems, extracting inner bark, removing woody parts, drying into curled strips (cinnamon sticks), and grinding into powder.

Q.3 [1 mark]

1(iii) Mention one point of difference between Ceylon cinnamon and Cassia cinnamon. (Paragraph 2)

Answer: Ceylon cinnamon comes from Sri Lanka and is sweeter and lighter in flavour, while Cassia cinnamon originates from southern China and has a robust, rich, somewhat bitter flavour. Cassia is also cheaper than Ceylon cinnamon.

Explanation:

Paragraph 2 contrasts the two types: Ceylon is from Sri Lanka, sweeter and lighter; Cassia is from China, cheaper, with a robust, rich, somewhat bitter flavour.

Q.4 [1 mark]

1(iv) Complete the sentence appropriately.

The author says that cinnamon was once more valuable than gold because _____. (Paragraph 3)

Answer: it was sought for embalming and religious practices in Egypt, used for religious rites and as a flavouring agent in medieval Europe, and was the most profitable spice in the Dutch East India Company trade

Explanation:

Paragraph 3 explains cinnamon's historical value: used in Egyptian embalming, medieval European religious rites and flavouring, and as the Dutch East India Company's most profitable spice.

Q.5 [1 mark]

1(v) What is the tone of the writer in the given lines from paragraph (5)? Rationalize your response in about 40 words.

"Cinnamon is a spice that has been prized for its medicinal properties for thousands of years."

Answer: The tone is informative and appreciative. The writer conveys a sense of reverence for cinnamon's long-standing medicinal value, using the word 'prized' to emphasize how highly cinnamon has been regarded across cultures and centuries for its health benefits.

Explanation:

The writer uses 'prized' to indicate high value and adopts an informative tone to educate the reader about cinnamon's historical medicinal significance.

Q.6 [1 mark]

1(vi) The writer's use of the phrases 'modern science has started to confirm'

in paragraph (5) and 'more evidence is needed to confirm' in paragraph (6) suggests that the benefits of cinnamon are:

1. proven
2. scientific
3. uncertain
4. controversial
5. harmful

Select the correct option:

(a) 1 and 3
(b) 2 and 4 <<
(c) only 3
(d) only 5

Explanation:

The phrases 'started to confirm' and 'more evidence is needed' suggest the benefits are both scientific (being studied by modern science) and controversial (not yet fully proven, requiring more evidence).
Options 2 and 4 best capture this nuance.

Q.7 [1 mark]

1(vii) Which of the following statements about cinnamon and its health benefits is true?

(a) Modern science has evidence to prove that cinnamon has many anti-diabetic properties, and it offers complete protection from cancer and cardiovascular disease.
(b) Cinnamon lacks antimicrobial and antifungal properties, making it unsuitable for dental hygiene products.
(c) Antioxidants found in cinnamon have no effect on free radicals in the body.
(d) Cinnamon's anti-inflammatory properties are being researched for its potential benefits in Alzheimer's disease, irritable bowel syndrome and

colon cancer. <<

Explanation:

Paragraph 5 states that cinnamon is being researched for its potential to fight Alzheimer's disease and decrease symptoms of irritable bowel syndrome and colon cancer due to its anti-inflammatory nature.

Option D accurately reflects this.

The other options contradict the passage.

Q.8 [1 mark]

1(viii) Which of the following statements best describes the author's attitude toward cinnamon and its uses?

(a) Finds cinnamon to be a prized condiment which can be used in almost all food items.

(b) Believes that cinnamon should be used by everyone, everyday.

(c) Recognizes that cinnamon has many useful properties, including health benefits. <<

(d) Believes that cinnamon should only be used as a medicinal supplement.

Explanation:

The author presents cinnamon as having multiple uses -- culinary, historical, and medicinal -- while noting that more research is needed.

Option C best captures this balanced, recognizing attitude.

Q.9 [1 mark]

2(i) What does the use of the phrase 'prioritize domestic destinations' by the writer, in paragraph (1) imply?

(a) Indian tourists prefer places in the country itself. <<

(b) Indian tourists like to stay at home.

(c) Indian tourists mainly travel on low budgets.

(d) Indian tourists love to hike-and-trek.

Explanation:

The phrase 'prioritize domestic destinations' means giving preference to places within the country, i.e., Indian tourists prefer to visit places within India itself.

Q.10 [1 mark]

2(ii) Fill in the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of paragraph (2).

The statement that, World Migration Report highlights significant migration flows from India to the United Arab Emirates, the United States, and Saudi Arabia, is a/an _____ (fact/opinion) because it is a/an _____ (subjective judgement/objective detail).

Answer: fact; objective detail

Explanation:

The World Migration Report is a documented, verifiable source.

The statement presents data-backed information about migration flows, making it a fact based on objective detail rather than a subjective judgement.

Section B — Creative Writing Skills

Writing (3-5 marks each)

Q.11 [5 marks]

2(iii) Draw a comparative analysis of domestic tourist travelling within India with domestic tourists travelling outside India in 2022. Answer in about 40 words.

Answer: In 2022, domestic tourism within India was overwhelmingly dominant with 1.7 billion tourist visits compared to only 21 million international departures. This shows Indians strongly prefer travelling within the country, with domestic tourism being approximately 80 times larger than outbound tourism.

Explanation:

The passage provides specific figures: 1.7 billion domestic visits vs.

21 million international departures, showing a massive preference for domestic travel.

Q.12 [5 marks]

2(iv) Complete the following with a suitable reason.

Gulf states rank as popular destinations for Indians _____.

Answer: because of significant migration flows from India to countries like the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Kuwait, as well as the large Indian migrant population already residing there

Explanation:

Paragraph 3 explains that the popularity of Gulf States may be influenced by migration trends, with the UAE hosting approximately 3.6 million Indian migrants.

Q.13 [5 marks]

2(v) Select the option that is true for the Assertion and Reason given below:

Assertion: Indians prioritize Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh for domestic tourism.

Reason: These states are full of historical monuments.

(a) Both the Assertion and Reason are true and the Reason is the correct explanation of the Assertion.

(b) Both the Assertion and 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 Assertion is true as paragraph 1 lists UP and AP among top states.

The Reason (historical monuments) is also generally true but the passage gives multiple reasons for domestic tourism (budget, cultural diversity, infrastructure), not specifically historical monuments as the reason for these states' popularity.

Q.14 [5 marks]

2(vi) Complete the sentence appropriately.

The fourthmost visited outbound destination for Indians to the Gulf is _____.

Answer: Kuwait

Explanation:

Paragraph 2 lists Gulf destinations with visitor numbers: UAE (3.9 million), Saudi Arabia (2.4 million), Qatar (880,000), and Kuwait (830,000).

Kuwait is the fourth.

Q.15 [5 marks]

2(vii) Mention any two reasons for domestic tourism becoming popular.

Answer: 1. It suits the budget of many travellers. 2. People love to explore the historical and cultural diversity of the country. (Additional reason: The government is focusing on tourist-friendly infrastructure making travel more convenient.)

Explanation:

Paragraph 1 mentions multiple reasons: budget-friendly travel, exploration of historical and cultural diversity, and government focus on tourist-friendly infrastructure.

Section C — Grammar

Grammar (1-3 marks each)

Q.16 [1 mark]

2(viii) What is the writer's view about the tourism industry in the west? Write any two points.

Answer: 1. Countries like the United States and the United Kingdom attract a considerable number of Indian tourists. 2. These western countries offer a mix of traditional and contemporary experiences along with unique cuisines and diverse landscapes.

Explanation:

Paragraph 2 describes the writer's view of western tourism destinations, highlighting their appeal through mixed experiences, unique cuisines, and diverse landscapes.

Q.17 [1 mark]

2(ix) Identify the word in paragraph (3) that indicates the 'preference' of

people travelling to the Gulf.

Answer: popularity

Explanation:

The word 'popularity' in paragraph 3 ('The popularity of Gulf States') indicates the preference of people travelling to the Gulf.

Q.18 [1 mark]

3(i) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the brackets, for the given portion of a letter.

I believe that with your support and _____ (cooperate), we can find a mutually agreeable solution that meets the expectations of all stakeholders involved.

Answer: cooperation

Explanation:

The noun form 'cooperation' is needed here as it follows 'support and', requiring a parallel noun structure.

Q.19 [1 mark]

3(ii) Read the given sentence from an electric cooker's instruction manual. Identify the error and supply the correction in the sentence.

For avoid damaging the appliance, do not immerse the electric cooker in water or any other liquid.

Answer: Error: For | Correction: To

The correct sentence is: 'To avoid damaging the appliance, do not immerse the electric cooker in water or any other liquid.'

Explanation:

'For avoid' is grammatically incorrect.

The infinitive 'To avoid' is needed to express purpose.

Q.20 [1 mark]

3(iii) Amit and Pullavi had a conversation about the inauguration of Pullavi's event. Report Amit's question.

Did you manage to get any sponsors for the inauguration event scheduled for the next month?

Answer: Amit asked Pullavi if/whether she had managed to get any sponsors for the inauguration event scheduled for the following month.

Explanation:

In reported speech, 'Did you manage' becomes 'if/whether she had managed', 'the next month' becomes 'the following month', and the question mark is removed.

Q.21 [1 mark]

3(iv) Read the dialogue between Bharti and her mother, Geeta, regarding Geeta's birthday plans.

Bharti: Do you want to go to a hill station on your birthday?

Geeta: No, I want to stay at home and call my friends over.

Bharti asked Geeta if she wanted to go to a hill station on her birthday. Geeta replied in the negative and said that _____.

Select the correct option that reports the above dialogue.

(a) she wanted to stay home and call her friends for celebrating.

(b) I wanted to stay home and call my friends to celebrate.

(c) she wanted to stay at home and call her friends over. <<

(d) she wants to stay home by calling her friends to celebrate.

Explanation:

In reported speech, 'I want' becomes 'she wanted' and the rest of the sentence is reported faithfully.

Option C correctly maintains the reported speech form.

Q.22 [1 mark]

3(v) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete the line of a

notice placed on the notice board of a company.

Please be informed that there will be a staff meeting in the conference room on Friday, 29th June, at 10:00 a.m. It is _____ for all to attend.

(a) mandatory <<
(b) obligatory
(c) indispensable
(d) All of the above

Explanation:

'Mandatory' is the most appropriate word for a formal notice about a compulsory meeting in corporate communication.

While 'obligatory' could also work, 'mandatory' is the standard choice in official contexts.

Q.23 [1 mark]

3(vi) Identify the error and supply correction for the given sentence from a preface of a book.

Writing this book have been a journey of exploration and discovery.

Answer: Error: have | Correction: has

The correct sentence is: 'Writing this book has been a journey of exploration and discovery.'

Explanation:

The subject is 'Writing this book' (a gerund phrase acting as a singular subject), so it requires the singular verb 'has' instead of 'have'.

Q.24 [1 mark]

3(vii) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the opening line, from an analytical paragraph.

The advent of social media has revolutionized communication by connected people across the globe in unprecedented ways.

(a) Error: has | Correction: have

(b) Error: communication | Correction: communicating

(c) Error: connected | Correction: connecting <<

(d) Error: in | Correction: for

Explanation:

'By' is followed by a gerund (verb + ing form).

So 'connected' should be 'connecting'.

The correct sentence is: '...by connecting people across the globe...'

Q.25 [1 mark]

3(viii) Complete the given entry in a personal diary, by filling the blank with the correct option.

Today was a rollercoaster of emotions. It started off with a sense of excitement and anticipation as I _____ on a new project at work.

(a) embarking

(b) embark

(c) embarked <<

(d) have embarked

Explanation:

The diary entry is written in past tense ('was', 'started'), so the simple past 'embarked' is the correct form to maintain tense consistency.

Q.26 [1 mark]

3(ix) Report the dialogue between a salesman and his customer, by completing the sentence.

Salesman: I have a wide range of sportswear.

Customer: Please show me something in cotton fabric, which is suitable for summers.

The salesman stated _____. The customer requested the salesman to show something in cotton fabric which would be suitable for summers.

Answer: that he had a wide range of sportswear

Explanation:

In reported speech, 'I have' becomes 'he had' (change of pronoun and tense backshift).

Q.27 [1 mark]

3(x) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete an announcement on a flight.

In thirty minutes, our flight attendants _____ meal service.

(a) will begin <<
(b) will begun
(c) should begin
(d) can begin

Explanation:

'Will begin' is the correct future tense form for an announcement about something that is going to happen in thirty minutes.

Section D — Literature

Textbook Questions (2-5 marks each)

Q.28 [2 marks]

3(xi) Complete the line from a 'Save the Environment' song, by filling the blank with the correct option.

Pollution, pollution, its time to take a stand,
for the health of our planet, we've got to lend a hand,
Reduce, reuse, recycle, that's the key,
_____ our world for you and me.

(a) for preserve
(b) to preserve <<
(c) to preserved
(d) for preserved

Explanation:

'To preserve' is the correct infinitive form expressing purpose.

'To + base verb' is the standard structure.

Q.29 [2 marks]

3(xii) Identify the error and supply the correction for the following instruction put up for safe use of elevators.

Please refrain by standing near the door as it could lead to an accident.

Answer: Error: by | Correction: from

The correct sentence is: 'Please refrain from standing near the door as it could lead to an accident.'

Explanation:

The correct collocation is 'refrain from' (not 'refrain by').

'Refrain from + gerund' is the standard structure.

Q.30(a) [2 marks]

4(a) As Sakshi/Sakshan Bedi of 864, Solar Apartments, Lajpat Street, Dipak Nagar, you feel that the lack of proper street lighting in several areas of your neighbourhood is a threat to safety. Residents, especially those who work late shifts or return home after dark, feel vulnerable due to poorly lit streets. Write a letter to the District Magistrate of your city area, in about 120 words, stating the problem and requesting him to take necessary action for installation of streetlights in those areas.

Answer: Model answer: A formal letter in proper format (sender's address, date, receiver's address, subject, salutation, body, closing) describing the problem of inadequate street lighting, its impact on safety -- especially for late-shift workers and women -- and requesting the District Magistrate to arrange installation of streetlights in the affected areas. The body should mention specific safety concerns, the vulnerability of residents after dark, and a polite but firm request for action.

Explanation:

This is a formal letter writing question requiring proper format, clear problem statement, and a persuasive request for action regarding street lighting.

OR

Q.30(b) [2 marks]

4(b) OR: You are Dharti Pradhan/Balal Goyal, the head girl/boy of Pinnacle School, Ustahpur. You live in a culturally rich city with many historical monuments. You have observed that visitors have etched graffiti on these monuments and littered the areas around. You are extremely disturbed at this irresponsible behaviour of the visitors. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily, in about 120 words, suggesting measures to stop such vandalism and creating awareness about the importance of these monuments.

Answer: Model answer: A letter to the editor in proper format expressing concern about vandalism of historical monuments through graffiti and littering. Should suggest measures like installing CCTV cameras, imposing fines on offenders, deploying security personnel, launching awareness campaigns about heritage preservation, and involving schools in heritage education programs.

Explanation:

This is a formal letter to the editor requiring proper format, expression of concern about monument vandalism, and constructive suggestions for preservation.

Q.31(a) [2 marks]

5(a) Natural food, typically refers to food that has not been processed or preserved in any significant way before it is consumed, while ultra-processed food refers to food items that have been altered from their natural state through various methods. Given below is a table that differentiates between natural and processed foods. Study the description given and write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words, drawing a comparison between the two.

Natural Food: High fibre, Healthy nutrients, Healthy fats, Low sodium, Regulates blood sugar, blood pressure and provides healthy nutrients.

Processed Food: High sugar, Unhealthy nutrients, Unhealthy fats, High sodium, Tasty, ready to eat and additive nutrients.

Answer: Model answer: An analytical paragraph with a topic sentence, body comparing natural and processed foods across multiple dimensions (fibre vs sugar, healthy vs unhealthy nutrients, healthy vs unhealthy fats, low vs high sodium, health regulation vs convenience), and a concluding statement advocating for natural food consumption. Should use comparative language and data from the table.

Explanation:

This is an analytical paragraph writing question requiring systematic comparison of natural vs processed foods using the given table data.

OR

Q.31(b) [2 marks]

5(b) OR: Social Media has a lasting impact on our thought process and influences our thinking in both positive and negative ways. With the help of the given cues and using your own ideas, write an analytical paragraph on 'The Impact of Social Media on Teenagers' in about 120 words.

POSITIVE: connects peers, creative expression, access information, community building.

NEGATIVE: impacts self-esteem, cyber bullying, privacy intrusion, distraction and addiction.

Answer: Model answer: An analytical paragraph discussing both positive impacts (peer connectivity, creative expression, information access, community building) and negative impacts (self-esteem issues, cyberbullying, privacy concerns,

distraction and addiction) of social media on teenagers, with a balanced conclusion suggesting responsible usage.

Explanation:

This is an analytical paragraph requiring balanced discussion of both positive and negative impacts of social media on teenagers using the given cues.

Q.0 [0 mark]

6(a)(i) State any one inference about the parents of the baby seagull from the given statement.

"His father and mother had come around calling to him shrilly, upbraiding him, threatening to let him starve on his ledge unless he flew away."

Answer: The parents were desperate and concerned about their young seagull's reluctance to fly. They used tough love -- scolding and threatening starvation -- as a strategy to push him to overcome his fear and take his first flight.

Explanation:

The statement shows the parents using harsh methods (shrilly calling, upbraiding, threatening starvation) out of concern, indicating they believed in tough love to encourage independence.

Q.0 [0 mark]

6(a)(ii) Where did the little seagull sleep at night?

Answer: The little seagull slept in a little hole under the ledge.

Explanation:

The extract states: 'he bent his head and ran away back to the little hole under the ledge where he slept at night.'

Q.0 [0 mark]

6(a)(iii) Which factors contributed to the young seagull's reluctance to fly despite the encouragement and threats from his parents? Elaborate in about 40 words, with reference to the extract.

Answer: The young seagull felt certain that his wings would never support him. He lacked courage to take the plunge which appeared desperate to him. Even seeing his siblings with shorter wings fly successfully could not overcome his deep-seated fear of falling.

Explanation:

The extract mentions his certainty that his wings wouldn't support him and his inability to muster courage for what seemed like a desperate plunge, despite his siblings' success.

Q.0 [0 mark]

6(a)(iv) Which phrase or word would correctly substitute 'muster up' in the given sentence from the extract?

"He failed to 'muster up' courage to take that plunge which appeared to him so desperate."

(a) resolve
(b) distribute
(c) gather <<
(d) All of the above

Explanation:

'Muster up' means to gather or summon (especially courage or strength).
'Gather' is the closest synonym in this context.

Q.0 [0 mark]

6(b)(i) Why had the author made his plans in advance?

(a) Mrs. Pumphrey was worried that Tricki would pine and die without her.
(b) The author was aware of the severity of Tricki's medical condition. <<
(c) The author knew about Mrs. Pumphrey's financial condition.
(d) The author had planned his own vacation.

Explanation:

The author (vet) had made plans in advance because he could see Tricki's

deteriorating health -- tottering, drooping, not eating, vomiting, lying on a rug panting. He knew the severity required hospitalization.

Q.0 [0 mark]

6(b)(ii) The author firmly proposed the need to remove Tricki from the house for a specified period. Elaborate the reason for doing so in about 40 words.

Answer: The author proposed removing Tricki because the dog was severely ill -- not eating, vomiting, lying listless, and refusing walks. The only way to treat him was to take him away from Mrs. Pumphrey's overindulgent care and keep him under medical observation for a fortnight.

Explanation:

Tricki's health had deteriorated severely under Mrs. Pumphrey's care. The vet knew that removing him from the environment of overfeeding and pampering was essential for recovery.

Q.0 [0 mark]

6(b)(iii) Fill in the correct word from the brackets.

The word 'swooned' in the following sentence indicates almost _____ (tripped/fainted).

Answer: fainted

Explanation:

'Swooned' means to faint or lose consciousness, typically from extreme emotion. In the context, Mrs. Pumphrey almost swooned (nearly fainted) at the suggestion of Tricki being hospitalized.

Q.0 [0 mark]

6(b)(iv) 'Mrs. Pumphrey was distraught.' What does this suggest about her character? Mention any one reason.

Answer: Mrs. Pumphrey being distraught suggests she was an extremely

emotional and devoted pet owner who was deeply attached to Tricki. Her distress at his illness shows she genuinely cared about his well-being, though her overindulgence was ironically the cause of his poor health.

Explanation:

Her distraught state reveals her deep emotional attachment to Tricki and her caring but overindulgent nature as a pet owner.

Q.0 [0 mark]

7(a)(i) The speaker offers evidence to support his preference for one theory over the other. Mention the evidence.

Answer: The speaker offers personal experience as evidence: 'From what I've tasted of desire / I hold with those who favour fire.' He has experienced desire (passion, longing) and therefore agrees with those who believe the world will end in fire.

Explanation:

The poet uses his personal experience of desire/passion as evidence to support his preference for fire as the means by which the world will end.

Q.0 [0 mark]

7(a)(ii) What is the prediction of the poet about how the world will come to an end? Answer in about 40 words.

Answer: The poet predicts that the world will most likely end in fire, as he holds with those who favour fire based on his experience of desire. However, he acknowledges that if the world were to perish twice, ice (representing hatred and coldness) would also be sufficient for destruction.

Explanation:

The poet favours fire (symbolizing desire/passion) as the primary means of the world's end, but acknowledges ice (hatred/indifference) as equally destructive.

Q.0 [0 mark]

7(a)(iii) "Fire" and "Ice" are used in the poem as _____.

(a) similes
(b) metaphors <<
(c) repetition
(d) oxymorons

Explanation:

Fire and Ice are metaphors -- fire represents desire/passion and ice represents hatred/coldness.

They are not direct comparisons using 'like' or 'as' (similes), nor are they contradictory terms (oxymorons).

Q.0 [0 mark]

7(a)(iv) Comment on the overall mood of the extract.

Answer: The overall mood of the extract is contemplative and philosophical. The speaker reflects calmly on the potential destruction of the world, weighing two possibilities (fire and ice) with a detached, almost casual tone despite the gravity of the subject.

Explanation:

The mood is reflective and philosophical as the poet considers the end of the world in a measured, thoughtful manner rather than with fear or alarm.

Q.0 [0 mark]

7(b)(i) How does the comparison between the boughs and newly discharged patients contribute to the theme or message of the poem? Answer in about 40 words.

Answer: The comparison between the boughs and newly discharged patients suggests a state of recovery and transition. Just as patients move uncertainly after illness, the trees' boughs shuffle under the roof, conveying a sense of confinement seeking freedom -- reinforcing the theme of nature striving to break free from

human constraints.

Explanation:

The simile 'like newly discharged patients' evokes vulnerability and the struggle for freedom, contributing to the poem's theme of nature's desire to escape confinement.

Q.0 [0 mark]

7(b)(ii) Complete the sentence with the appropriate option.

The imagery and descriptions in the poem create a mood of _____.

(a) satisfaction and elation

(b) transition and uncertainty <<

(c) confusion and chaos

(d) pessimism and certainty

Explanation:

The imagery of leaves straining, twigs stiff with exertion, boughs shuffling like newly discharged patients, and half-dazed movement creates a mood of transition (moving from one state to another) and uncertainty (tentative, unsure movement).

Q.0 [0 mark]

7(b)(iii) Fill in the blank with one word.

The stiff movement of the twigs in the above extract suggests the _____.

Answer: struggle

Explanation:

The twigs being 'stiff with exertion' suggests struggle -- the effort and difficulty the trees face in trying to move and break free from their confinement.

Q.0 [0 mark]

7(b)(iv) Why does the poet describe the bough as 'shuffling'?

Answer: The poet describes the bough as 'shuffling' to convey slow, awkward, and uncertain movement -- like someone who has been confined for a long time and is

now trying to move again. It personifies the tree branches as weak, cramped beings attempting to regain their freedom, much like newly discharged hospital patients.

Explanation:

'Shuffling' suggests slow, dragging movement, reinforcing the idea that the trees have been long-cramped and confined, and are now making tentative efforts to move toward freedom.

Q.0 [0 mark]

8(i) The transition from the apartheid system in South Africa to a new era of equality reflects broader historical trends in the struggle for human rights and social justice. Elaborate. (Nelson Mandela -- Long Walk to Freedom)

Answer: South Africa's transition from apartheid to democracy mirrors global struggles for equality. Under apartheid, the non-white majority was oppressed through institutionalized racial segregation. Mandela's long struggle and eventual triumph represent the universal fight against discrimination. The peaceful transition demonstrated that sustained resistance and negotiation can overcome systemic injustice, reflecting similar movements worldwide for civil rights, decolonization, and social justice.

Explanation:

This question requires students to connect South Africa's apartheid experience to broader global human rights movements, drawing on the chapter 'Nelson Mandela -- Long Walk to Freedom'.

Q.0 [0 mark]

8(ii) How does "The Ball Poem" by John Berryman explore the theme of loss and its profound impact on an individual's emotional state and perception of the world? (The Ball Poem)

Answer: The Ball Poem explores loss through a boy losing his ball, symbolizing the first experience of losing something precious. The boy learns that some things

cannot be replaced with money. This loss profoundly impacts his emotional state as he experiences grief and the realization of impermanence. The poem suggests that such experiences of loss are essential for growing up and understanding the nature of the world.

Explanation:

The poem uses the simple incident of losing a ball as a metaphor for the larger experience of loss in life, exploring how it shapes emotional maturity and worldview.

Q.0 [0 mark]

8(iii) How does the description of the baker's lifestyle in the past evoke a sense of nostalgia? (Glimpses of India -- A Baker from Goa)

Answer: The baker's lifestyle evokes nostalgia through descriptions of the traditional morning routine -- the jingling thud of his bamboo staff, his arrival heralded by children running to meet him, the fragrance of freshly baked bread (pao), and the special bread preparations for festivals and occasions. The baker was a central, beloved figure in Goan village life, representing a simpler, more community-oriented time that has since faded.

Explanation:

The chapter paints a vivid picture of the baker's integral role in traditional Goan society, creating nostalgia for a bygone era of community life and simple pleasures.

Q.0 [0 mark]

8(iv) What role does each of Belinda's pets play in the narrative? Select any two of her pets. (The Tale of Custard the Dragon)

Answer: Belinda had several pets, each with a distinct role: Ink (a kitten) was described as brave but ran away when the pirate came; Blink (a mouse) was also supposedly bold but fled from danger; Mustard (a dog) was described as brave as a tiger but cowered in fear; Custard (the dragon) was ridiculed as a coward but was the only one who actually fought and swallowed the pirate. The pets serve to contrast appearances with reality -- those who boasted of bravery proved

cowardly, while the mocked Custard proved truly brave.

Explanation:

The pets create an ironic contrast: the supposedly brave pets (Ink, Blink, Mustard) are cowards, while the ridiculed Custard is the true hero.

Q.0 [0 mark]

8(v) Valli found joy and fascination in the simple act of watching the bus pass through her village. What does this reveal about her perspective on life and her surroundings? (Madam Rides the Bus)

Answer: Valli's joy in watching the bus reveals her curious, observant, and adventurous nature. Despite being a young girl confined to her village, she found wonder in everyday sights. Her fascination with the bus shows her desire to explore the world beyond her immediate surroundings. She was perceptive, independent-minded, and found happiness in simple pleasures, viewing her ordinary world with extraordinary curiosity and enthusiasm.

Explanation:

Valli's character is defined by her curiosity and sense of wonder.

Her fascination with the bus represents her longing for new experiences and her ability to find joy in the mundane.

Q.0 [0 mark]

9(i) How did Ausable get rid of Max? (The Midnight Visitor)

Answer: Ausable got rid of Max by fabricating a story about a balcony outside the window of his room. When Max confronted him with a gun, Ausable calmly mentioned the non-existent balcony as if annoyed about a security breach. When there was a knock at the door (which Ausable said was the police), Max panicked and jumped out of the window believing he would land on the balcony, but fell to his death as no balcony existed.

Explanation:

Ausable used his wit and quick thinking to create a fictional balcony, exploiting Max's fear when the waiter knocked, causing Max to jump out the window.

Q.0 [0 mark]

9(ii) Why does Mme Loisel hastily depart from the ball when her husband places a modest wrap on her shoulders? (The Necklace)

Answer: Mme Loisel hastily departed because the modest wrap was a stark contrast to the elegant dress and borrowed diamond necklace she wore. She was ashamed of her ordinary, everyday wrap and did not want the other wealthy women, who were wrapping themselves in expensive furs, to see her in it. She feared the humiliation of being exposed as not truly wealthy.

Explanation:

Her hurried departure reflects her vanity and shame -- she could not bear the contrast between her borrowed elegance and her actual modest means.

Q.0 [0 mark]

9(iii) "In time you will be more learned than anyone else in the village. Then no one will ever be able to laugh at you." What effect did her teacher's words have on Bholi? Elaborate. (Bholi)

Answer: The teacher's words had a transformative effect on Bholi. They gave her hope, confidence, and a sense of self-worth she had never experienced before. Bholi, who had been neglected, ridiculed for her pockmarked face and stammering speech, found in education a path to dignity. The teacher's encouragement made Bholi believe in herself, eventually giving her the courage to refuse a humiliating marriage and stand up for her rights.

Explanation:

The teacher's words were a turning point in Bholi's life, transforming her from a timid, neglected girl into a confident young woman who could assert herself.

Q.36(a) [2 marks]

10(a) Analyse and evaluate the role of faith in 'A Letter to God' and 'The Sermon at Benares'.

Answer: In 'A Letter to God', Lencho's unshakeable faith in God leads him to write a letter asking for money after his crops are destroyed by hail. His faith is so strong that when the post office employees send him money, he believes it came from God and accuses the employees of stealing the difference. In 'The Sermon at Benares', Buddha teaches Kisa Gotami about the inevitability of death. Her faith transforms from seeking a miracle (mustard seed from a house untouched by death) to accepting the universal truth of mortality. Both stories show faith as a powerful force but explore its different dimensions -- blind faith vs. enlightened understanding.

Explanation:

This long-answer question requires comparison of the role of faith across two texts:
Lencho's blind but unwavering faith vs.
Kisa Gotami's faith that evolves into wisdom.

OR

Q.36(b) [2 marks]

10(b) OR: Explore the contrasting images of the tiger in 'A Tiger in the Zoo' and the tiger in 'How to Tell Wild Animals'.

Answer: In 'A Tiger in the Zoo', the tiger is confined, pacing in his cage with suppressed rage, representing the loss of freedom and dignity of wild animals in captivity. His 'brilliant eyes' watch the stars, symbolizing his longing for the wild. In 'How to Tell Wild Animals', the tiger is described humorously as a wild creature that would eat you if you encounter it in the jungle. The contrast highlights the difference between a tiger's majestic, dangerous nature in the wild and the tragic, diminished existence of a caged tiger. One poem evokes sympathy while the other uses humour.

Explanation:

This long-answer question requires analysis of contrasting portrayals: the tragic caged tiger vs.
the humorous wild tiger, examining themes of freedom, captivity, and literary tone.

Q.37(a) [2 marks]

11(a) Anil's acceptance and forgiveness of the thief demonstrates empathy and generosity. Elaborate. (The Thief's Story)

Answer: Anil discovers that Hari Singh (the thief) stole his money but chose not to confront him. Instead, he silently accepted Hari Singh back, even offering him the wet, returned money as his salary. Anil's empathy is evident in his understanding that Hari Singh needed trust and opportunity, not punishment. His generosity lies in giving the thief a second chance, teaching him to read and write, and treating him with respect despite knowing about the theft. This act of forgiveness transforms Hari Singh, who realizes the value of trust and education over easy money.

Explanation:

Anil's response demonstrates that compassion and trust can be more transformative than punishment, showing true empathy and generosity of spirit.

OR

Q.37(b) [2 marks]

11(b) OR: Trace the transformation of Richard Ebright from a young man with potential to a respected and accomplished scientist. (The Making of a Scientist)

Answer: Richard Ebright's transformation began with his fascination for collecting butterflies as a child, encouraged by his mother. A book about monarch butterfly migration sparked his scientific curiosity. He progressed from entering county science fairs to conducting real experiments -- raising monarch butterflies, studying their migration patterns, and eventually discovering a new hormone in the gold spots of monarch pupae. His journey from a curious boy to a respected

scientist was marked by increasing scientific rigor, creativity, and the crucial qualities of a first-rate mind: the ability to observe, ask questions, and find answers through systematic research.

Explanation:

This question traces Ebright's journey from butterfly collector to scientist, highlighting the role of curiosity, mentorship, and systematic inquiry in scientific development.