# CBSE 2025 English — Set 3 — Answer Key

English Medium

Time Allowed: 3 Hours | Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

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

Q.1(i) [1 mark]

What does the writer's use of phrases like 'in urban regions kitchen gardens have garnered great acknowledgement' suggest about kitchen gardening today?

(a) (A) It has reduced inflation.

(b) (B) It is an expensive hobby.

(c) (C) It provides nutritious food. <<

(d) (D) It does not minimize adverse effects on the environment.

Explanation:

The passage in Paragraph (1) emphasizes the role of kitchen gardens in promoting food security and providing fresh, nutritious food.

The phrase 'garnered great acknowledgement' suggests widespread recognition of its benefits, particularly nutritious food.

Q.0

Complete the following with a suitable explanation.

Growing a kitchen garden is cost effective because _____.

(Refer to Paragraph 2)

Answer: Growing a kitchen garden is cost effective because urban dwellers can grow their own fresh produce at home, making good use of empty tins, old utensils, and clay flower pots, which saves money and time.

Explanation:

Paragraph (2) states that kitchen gardens save money and time as people can grow their own produce using readily available items like empty tins, old utensils, and clay flower pots.

Q.0

Identify two differences between the methods adopted in traditional farming and kitchen gardens. (Refer to Paragraph 3)

Answer: 1. Traditional farming uses synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, while kitchen gardens promote organic farming without harmful chemicals. 2. Traditional

farming uses intensive irrigation methods, while kitchen gardens reduce the use of such methods and help preserve soil health.

Explanation:

Paragraph (3) contrasts traditional agriculture (synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, intensive irrigation, adverse environmental effects) with kitchen gardens (organic farming, reduced harmful chemicals, preserved soil health).

Q.0

Substitute the underlined word with the correct word from Paragraph (4).

The local residents' nurturing of their surrounding flora and fauna helps to create awareness about civic responsibilities.

Answer: The word 'nurturing' should be replaced with 'fostering' from Paragraph (4).

Explanation:

Paragraph (4) uses the word 'fostering' (as in 'fostering a sustainable environment'), which is a suitable substitute for 'nurturing' in the given sentence.

Q.1(v) [1 mark]

Tending to a kitchen garden has many health benefits. Explain in about 40 words. (Refer to Paragraphs 4 and 5)

Answer: Kitchen gardens ensure higher intake of essential nutrients, vitamins, and minerals, promoting overall health. Gardening provides therapeutic exercise that relieves stress, helps individuals stay active, and reduces the risk of obesity and related health issues.

Explanation:

Paragraphs (4) and (5) detail health benefits: fresh organic produce provides essential nutrients (Para 4), and the physical activity of gardening relieves stress, keeps people active, and reduces obesity risk (Para 5).

Q.0

Select the option that best reflects the concept that kitchen gardening is an effective educational tool for children. (Refer to Paragraph 5)

(a) (A) It contributes to effective community development.

(b) (B) It helps develop sensitivity and appreciation for nature. <<

Explanation:

Paragraph (5) describes kitchen gardens as 'an effective tool for education' that helps individuals 'reconnect with nature and learn about the basics of agriculture.' Paragraph (6) adds that children can 'develop an appreciation for the environment.' Option (B) best captures this educational aspect.

Q.0

What hurdles do kitchen gardeners face? Mention any two. (Refer to Paragraph 7)

Answer: Any two of: (1) Limited space, (2) Lack of sunlight, (3) Soil quality issues.

Explanation:

Paragraph (7) lists three obstacles that urban kitchen gardeners face: limited space, lack of sunlight, and soil quality issues.

Q.0

State whether the following statement is True or False:
Kitchen gardening should be practised by everyone living in the cities.

Answer: True. The passage strongly advocates for kitchen gardening in urban areas, stating it is imperative to support and encourage such initiatives to transform urban areas into sustainable havens.

Explanation:

Paragraph (8) states 'It is imperative to provide support and resources to encourage urban gardening initiatives' and the entire passage advocates for kitchen gardening in cities for food security, health, environment, and community benefits.

Q.2(i) [1 mark]

Silk is a popular fabric in India. Support the above statement in 40 words

with evidence from the text.

Answer: Silk has a long history in India, known as Resham in eastern and northern India, and Pattu in southern India. India is the second largest producer of silk in the world after China, with Karnataka being the highest producer at 8483 metric tonnes.

Explanation:

The passage provides multiple pieces of evidence: silk has regional names (Resham, Pattu), India is the world's second largest producer, and state-wise production data confirms its widespread cultivation.

Q.0

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

Assertion: Silk feels comfortable to the skin.

Reason: It is made of natural protein fibre.

(a) (A) Both the assertion and the reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.

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

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

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

Explanation:

The assertion is true (Paragraph 2 says silk feels comfortable on the skin).

The reason is also true (Paragraph 1 says silk is a natural protein fibre).

However, the reason silk feels comfortable is its soft and smooth texture and moisture-regulating properties, not simply because it is a protein fibre.

So the reason is not the correct explanation.

Q.0

Justify the following statement:

Though one of the strongest natural fibres, silk remains stretched.

Answer: Silk remains stretched because its elasticity is moderate to poor. If

elongated even a small amount, it does not return to its original shape and remains stretched.

Explanation:

Paragraph (3) explains that silk's elasticity is moderate to poor, meaning that once it is elongated even slightly, it remains stretched and does not bounce back.

Q.0

According to the passage, in what way is sunlight harmful to silk?

Answer: Sunlight is harmful to silk because it can weaken the fibre if silk is exposed to too much sunlight.

Explanation:

Paragraph (3) states that silk 'can be weakened if exposed to too much sunlight.'

Q.2(v) [1 mark]

"To produce 1 kg of silk, 104 kg of mulberry leaves must be eaten by 3000 silkworms."

State any one inference that can be drawn from the above statement.

Answer: Silk production is a resource-intensive process requiring large quantities of mulberry leaves and thousands of silkworms, which makes silk expensive and its production limited.

Explanation:

The statement shows the enormous scale of raw materials needed (104 kg leaves and 3000 silkworms for just 1 kg of silk), implying that silk is costly and production is inherently limited.

Q.0

Complete the following with one suitable reason from the text:

Silk production work can be carried out by skilled artisans because _____.

Answer: Silk production work can be carried out by skilled artisans because the intensive work requires specialized knowledge and expertise in craftsmanship.

Explanation:

Paragraph (5) states that 'the intensive work can only be carried out with specialized knowledge and expertise by skilled artisans and craftsmanship.'

Q.0

Based on the given text, which state was the smallest producer of silk?

Answer: Uttar Pradesh (UP) was the smallest producer of silk at 179 metric tonnes.

Explanation:

The passage states that 'UP trailed behind at 179 metric tonnes,' making it the smallest producer among the states mentioned.

Q.0

Complete the sentence suitably.

To carry out silk production requires careful selection because _____.

Answer: To carry out silk production requires careful selection because superior quality silk fabrics are made from long and uniform silk fibres giving them a smooth and lustrous appearance.

Explanation:

Paragraph (5) explains that 'superior quality silk fabrics are made from long and uniform silk fibres giving them a smooth and lustrous appearance.

Thus, production requires careful selection, adding to the cost.'

Q.0

Give one reason to support why production of silk is limited.

Answer: Production of silk is limited due to factors like climate, availability of quality mulberry leaves, and the time required by silkworms to complete their lifecycle. (Any one reason is acceptable.)

Explanation:

Paragraph (5) lists limiting factors: climate, availability of quality mulberry leaves, and

time required by silkworms to complete their lifecycle.

Q.3(i) [1 mark]

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

Please do not hesitate to contact me if there are any further questions or if I can be of _____ (assist) in any way.

Answer: assistance

Explanation:

The blank requires a noun form of 'assist'.

The correct noun form is 'assistance' which fits the context: 'be of assistance in any way.'

Q.0

Read the given sentence from a travel blog. Identify the error and supply the correction in the sentence.

Spend a night under the stars in a traditional camp, where you can experience the warmth of our hospitable and savour the delicious local cuisine.

Use the given format for your response: Error | Correction

Answer: Error: hospitable | Correction: hospitality

Explanation:

'Hospitable' is an adjective and cannot follow 'our' as a noun.

The correct noun form 'hospitality' should be used: 'experience the warmth of our hospitality.'

Q.0

Kriva and Manish had a conversation about the engagement of Kriva's brother. Report Manish's question.

Manish: How far is the engagement venue from your house?

Answer: Manish asked Kriva how far the engagement venue was from her house.

Explanation:

In reported speech, the question word 'how far' is retained, the verb 'is' changes to 'was', and 'your' changes to 'her'.

The question mark is removed and the sentence becomes a statement.

Q.0

Read the dialogue between Ankita and her mentor, Sharwari, about the cultural exchange programme.

Ankita: Are we going to get some time off for sightseeing?

Sharwari: Oh yes! All the students will get two days for sightseeing.

Select the correct option to complete the reporting of the above dialogue.

Ankita asked Sharwari if they were going to get some time off for sightseeing, to which Sharwari replied in the affirmative _____ two days for sightseeing.

(a) (A) that all the students should get

(b) (B) that all the students would get <<

(c) (C) that all the students ought to get

(d) (D) that all the students must be getting

Explanation:

In reported speech, 'will' changes to 'would'.

The correct reported form of 'All the students will get' is 'that all the students would get.'

Q.3(v) [1 mark]

Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete a description of Notice Writing.

A notice is a type of social (conversation/news/communication) used to notify or present information to a specific set of people.

Answer: communication

Explanation:

A notice is a type of formal 'communication' used to convey information to a specific group of people.

'Conversation' implies two-way dialogue, and 'news' refers to current events, neither of which accurately describes a notice.

Q.0

Identify the error and supply correction for the given sentence from an advertisement.

The board invite online applications from eligible candidates for the post of a senior English teacher.

Use the given format for your response: Error | Correction

Answer: Error: invite | Correction: invites

Explanation:

The subject 'The board' is singular and requires the singular verb form 'invites' instead of the plural form 'invite.'

Q.0

Identify and correct the error in the given line taken from a user manual of an ironing board.

Place the garment on the ironing board, smoothening out as many wrinkle as possible.

Select the correct option:

(a) (A) an / in

(b) (B) many / any

(c) (C) wrinkle / wrinkles <<

(d) (D) possible / impossible

Explanation:

'Many' is used with plural countable nouns, so 'wrinkle' should be 'wrinkles'.

The correct sentence is: 'smoothening out as many wrinkles as possible.'

Q.0

Complete the given sentence by filling in the blank with the correct option.

After she _____ her homework, Anaisha finally relaxed and watched a movie with her friends.

(a) (A) finished

(b) (B) had finished <<

(c) (C) have finished

(d) (D) will finish

Explanation:

The sentence describes two past actions where one (finishing homework) was completed before the other (relaxing and watching a movie).

Past perfect tense 'had finished' is used for the action completed first.

Q.0

Report the dialogue between two friends by completing the sentence.

Ankita: Will you help me plan my itinerary?

Tanu: Yes, indeed! Where are you going?

Ankita asked Tanu if _____ Tanu enthusiastically replied in the affirmative and asked where she was going.

Answer: Ankita asked Tanu if she would help her plan her itinerary.

Explanation:

In reported speech, 'will' changes to 'would', 'you' changes to 'she', and 'me/my' changes to 'her'.

The reported question uses 'if' since it is a yes/no question.

Q.3(x) [1 mark]

Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the pop-up message appearing on a website.

Welcome to our website! You _____ enjoy 10 percent off on your first purchase with code WELCOME. Click here to start shopping!

(a) (A) may <<
(b) (B) will
(c) (C) should
(d) (D) might

Explanation:

'May' is used here to express permission or possibility in a polite, formal context.
The website is offering a potential discount, and 'may' appropriately conveys that the user has the opportunity to enjoy the discount.

Q.0

Complete the given sentence about the reaction of some students, by selecting the correct option.

Since morning the group of students _____ excited about the forthcoming cultural fest.

(a) (A) are
(b) (B) was
(c) (C) has been <<
(d) (D) were

Explanation:

'Since morning' indicates a time frame starting in the past and continuing to the present, requiring the present perfect continuous or present perfect tense.
'The group' is singular, so 'has been' is correct.

Q.0

Identify the error and supply the correction for the following note on a food packet.

This product is manufacturing for infants and contains no additives.

Use the given format for your response: Error | Correction

Answer: Error: manufacturing | Correction: manufactured

Explanation:

The sentence is in passive voice ('is manufactured for infants'). 'Manufacturing' (present participle/active) should be 'manufactured' (past participle/passive) since the product is the object being made.

Q.4(a) [1 mark]

You are Neha/Nehal Panjwani, residing at 8576, Sarita Apartments, Hunger Street. As a responsible citizen, you believe in promoting environmentally responsible practices. Write a letter to the Director, Alternate Energy Commission, in about 120 words, sharing your views about 'Reducing the Carbon Footprint' by encouraging the use of renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power and to provide subsidies to families who want to avail the facility.

Answer: Model answer: A formal letter addressed to the Director, Alternate Energy Commission, from Neha/Nehal Panjwani at the given address. The letter should include: (1) Subject line about reducing carbon footprint, (2) Introduction stating concern about environmental issues, (3) Body discussing benefits of renewable energy sources like solar and wind power, (4) Request for subsidies to families wanting to adopt renewable energy, (5) Suggestions for awareness campaigns, (6) Formal closing. The letter should follow the proper formal letter format with sender's address, date, receiver's address, subject, salutation, body, and complimentary close.

Explanation:

This is a formal letter writing question. The letter must follow the prescribed format, address the topic of reducing carbon footprint through renewable energy, and suggest subsidies for families.

Q.4(b) [1 mark]

OR

As Shobita/Shobhit Das, a responsible citizen, residing in 14-A, GVR Colony, Hyderabad, you have noticed that a road crossing in your area does not have a traffic signal which leads to chaos and traffic jams during peak hours. It is also an accident-prone area. Despite writing numerous letters to the Traffic Commissioner, no action has yet been taken. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily, in about 120 words, to draw the attention of concerned authorities to address the pressing issue affecting the commuters.

Answer: Model answer: A formal letter to the editor of a national daily, from Shobita/Shobhit Das at the given address. The letter should include: (1) Subject line about the need for a traffic signal, (2) Description of the problem — road crossing without traffic signal, (3) Consequences — chaos, traffic jams during peak hours, accidents, (4) Mention of previous complaints to Traffic Commissioner with no action, (5) Appeal to concerned authorities through the newspaper, (6) Proper formal letter format.

Explanation:

This is a letter to the editor about a civic issue.

The letter should highlight the traffic problem, previous unaddressed complaints, and urge authorities to take action.

Q.5(a) [1 mark]

The effects of technology on education have been profound and multifaceted; influencing both teaching and learning in various ways. The data below shows the rising enrolment in online courses over the years. Analyze the data and write an analytical paragraph, in about 120 words, about how technology has transformed teaching and learning by shifting from classrooms to digital devices. Discuss benefits such as access to information and challenges like digital divide.

Data Table:

S. No. | Year | Total number of enrolments (in millions)

1. | 2017 | 26

2. | 2018 | 43

3. | 2019 | 59

4. | 2020 | 76

5. | 2021 | 143

6. | 2022 | 189

Answer: Model answer: An analytical paragraph analyzing the data showing rising online course enrolments from 26 million in 2017 to 189 million in 2022. Key points to cover: (1) Dramatic increase in enrolments, especially the sharp jump from 76M in 2020 to 143M in 2021 (likely due to COVID-19 pandemic), (2) Benefits of technology in education — access to information, flexibility, wider reach, (3) Challenges — digital divide, lack of access for underprivileged students, screen fatigue, (4) Conclusion about the transformative impact of technology on education.

Explanation:

This is an analytical paragraph writing question based on data.

Students must analyze the trend, discuss benefits and challenges of technology in education, and draw meaningful conclusions.

Q.5(b) [1 mark]

OR

Read the given details about the pros and cons of artificial intelligence (AI). With the help of the given cues and your own ideas write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words on "AI — Benefits and Drawbacks".

Cues:

- AI is possessed by machines

- Impacted our lives in many ways
- AI — Google maps
- Knowledge at our fingertips
- Cannot wholly replicate humans
- Increase in cyber crime

Answer: Model answer: An analytical paragraph discussing both benefits and drawbacks of AI. Benefits to cover: (1) AI in everyday applications like Google Maps for navigation, (2) Knowledge accessibility at fingertips, (3) Improved efficiency in various fields. Drawbacks to cover: (1) AI cannot wholly replicate human thinking, emotions, and creativity, (2) Increase in cyber crime, (3) Job displacement concerns. The paragraph should present a balanced view with a suitable conclusion.

Explanation:

This is an analytical paragraph writing question based on given cues about AI. Students must present a balanced analysis of AI's benefits and drawbacks using the provided cues and their own ideas.

Q.0

What time of the day is the above extract set in?
(Two Stories About Flying)

(a) (A) dawn
(b) (B) afternoon
(c) (C) night <<
(d) (D) dusk

Explanation:

The extract mentions 'the moon was coming up,' 'stars were shining,' and the time is 'one thirty in the morning,' which clearly indicates nighttime.

Q.0

State any one inference about the writer from the given context.

"I was looking forward to being with my family."
(Two Stories About Flying)

Answer: The writer is a family-oriented person who values spending time with his family. He is eagerly anticipating reuniting with them after his journey.

Explanation:
The statement 'I was looking forward to being with my family' suggests the narrator has a strong emotional bond with his family and is excited about returning home to them.

Q.0

Fill in the blank with the correct word from the brackets.
The use of the phrase 'clear sky' adds to a sense of _____ (favourable/flavourful) weather conditions.
(Two Stories About Flying)

Answer: favourable

Explanation:
'Clear sky' indicates good, pleasant weather conditions suitable for flying.
'Favourable' means advantageous or positive, which aptly describes clear skies.
'Flavourful' relates to taste and is irrelevant here.

Q.0

How does the serene atmosphere described by the narrator contribute to the mood and anticipation of his journey back to England? Elaborate in about 40 words, with reference to the extract.
(Two Stories About Flying)

Answer: The serene atmosphere with the moonrise, shining stars, clear sky, and sleeping countryside creates a peaceful and content mood. This tranquillity heightens the narrator's anticipation and happiness about returning to England and reuniting with his family during the holiday.

Explanation:

The peaceful imagery (moon, stars, clear sky, sleeping countryside) establishes a calm, contented mood that mirrors the narrator's happiness and eagerness about going home to his family.

Q.0

What was the management supposed to do regarding the balcony?
(The Midnight Visitor)

Answer: The management was supposed to block off the balcony so that no one could use it to access Ausable's room.

Explanation:

Ausable explains that 'The management promised to block it off.
But they haven't.' The balcony extends from the neighbouring apartment and provides unauthorized access to Ausable's room.

Q.0

Which of the following was the reason that irritated Ausable about the balcony?
(The Midnight Visitor)

(a) (A) its size and layout
(b) (B) its location relative to his apartment
(c) (C) its accessibility from the neighbouring unit <<
(d) (D) its maintenance by the apartment management

Explanation:

Ausable is irritated because the balcony can be accessed from 'the empty room two doors down' and someone already used it to enter his room last month.
The accessibility from the neighbouring unit is the source of his irritation.

Q.0

How does Ausable's detailed explanation of the balcony's history and current accessibility contribute to the atmosphere of suspense or tension in the

story? Answer in about 40 words.
(The Midnight Visitor)

Answer: Ausable's detailed explanation about the balcony creates an illusion of a real vulnerability in his room's security. This fabricated backstory builds suspense by making the intruder (and the reader) believe there is a plausible escape route, adding tension to the confrontation.

Explanation:
Ausable cleverly invents the balcony story to create a believable trap.
The detailed history makes the fictional balcony seem real, building suspense and tension that leads to the intruder's eventual downfall.

Q.0

Fill in the blank with the correct word from the brackets.
The reference to 'last month' and 'now' adds to a sense of _____ (reconciliation/mystery).
(The Midnight Visitor)

Answer: mystery

Explanation:
The references to 'last month' (when someone used the balcony to enter) and 'now' (the balcony still being accessible) create a sense of mystery and unresolved danger, not reconciliation.

Q.0

Fill the blank to complete the sentence.
Shaking down of dust of snow gave the speaker a change of heart by _____.
(Dust of Snow)

Answer: Shaking down of dust of snow gave the speaker a change of heart by uplifting his mood and saving a part of the day he had thought was ruined/wasted.

Explanation:

The poem 'Dust of Snow' describes how a simple natural event (a crow shaking snow from a hemlock tree onto the speaker) changed his mood from sadness to positivity, saving a day he had been regretting.

Q.0

How does the interaction between the natural elements (crow, snow, hemlock tree) contribute to the speaker's emotional transformation in the poem? Answer in about 40 words.

(Dust of Snow)

Answer: The crow, typically symbolizing bad omen, shakes the fine dust of snow from a hemlock tree (associated with poison/sorrow) onto the speaker. This unexpected interaction of seemingly negative elements paradoxically uplifts the speaker's mood, showing how nature can transform our emotions in surprising ways.

Explanation:

The poet deliberately uses elements with negative connotations (crow and hemlock tree) to create a positive change, emphasizing that even seemingly inauspicious events in nature can bring about an emotional transformation.

Q.0

'Dust of Snow' is referred to as:

(a) (A) mist
(b) (B) dust of branches
(c) (C) snow residue <<
(d) (D) snowflakes

Explanation:

'Dust of snow' refers to fine particles of snow or snow residue that the crow shakes down from the hemlock tree.

It is not mist, dust of branches, or full snowflakes, but rather fine powdery snow residue.

Q.0

The crow and the hemlock tree represent _____.

1. sorrow
2. elation
3. hope
4. anxiety
5. enthusiasm

(a) (A) 1 only <<
(b) (B) 2, 3 and 5
(c) (C) 4 only
(d) (D) 1, 4 and 5

Explanation:

The crow is traditionally associated with bad luck and gloom, and the hemlock tree is associated with poison and sorrow.

Together, they represent sorrow or sadness, not positive emotions like elation, hope, or enthusiasm.

Q.0

How does the poet reinforce the contrast between what the narrator wants and what Amanda desires?

(Amanda)

Answer: The poet reinforces the contrast through alternating stanzas. The narrator's stanzas contain commands and restrictions ('Don't bite your nails,' 'Don't hunch your shoulders,' 'sit up straight'), while Amanda's parenthetical stanzas reveal her fantasy of being a mermaid in an emerald sea, drifting blissfully and free. This contrast highlights the tension between parental control and a child's desire for freedom.

Explanation:

The structure of alternating stanzas creates a stark contrast: the outer stanzas show the controlling, nagging parent, while the bracketed stanzas reveal Amanda's

imaginative escape into a world of freedom and peace.

Q.0

What tone is conveyed through the repetition of Amanda's name in the line? (Amanda)

(a) (A) loving
(b) (B) instructive <<
(c) (C) indifferent
(d) (D) playful

Explanation:

The repetition of Amanda's name along with commands ('Don't bite,' 'Don't hunch,' 'Stop that slouching') conveys an instructive (and nagging) tone.
The speaker is constantly directing and correcting Amanda's behaviour.

Q.0

How does the imagery of the emerald sea with the mermaid contrast with Amanda's actions?
(Amanda)

Answer: The emerald sea imagery represents freedom, tranquillity, and beauty where Amanda imagines herself as a mermaid drifting blissfully with no restrictions. This contrasts sharply with her real-life actions of nail-biting, hunching, and slouching, which are signs of anxiety and discomfort caused by constant nagging.

Explanation:

The mermaid fantasy represents Amanda's ideal world of peace and freedom, while her physical actions (nail-biting, hunching) in reality reflect her stressed state due to the constant instructions and criticism she receives.

Q.0

Select the option that applies the same rhyme scheme as the lines of the given extract.

(Amanda)

(a) (A) Sitting by the pond
Waving my wand
Awaiting my dearest
I looked above and beyond
Awaiting my love
A sudden sound, fluttered the dove
The crackle stopped, as so did my heart <<

(b) (B) Sitting by the pond
Holding tight to my bond
I looked above and beyond
Awaiting my love
I heard her come, a sudden sound
The crackle stopped, as so did my heart

(c) (C) I sat beside the pond with her
Awaiting for her to come
I looked above and beyond
Awaiting my love
A sudden sound, I turned back
The crackle stopped, as so did my heart

(d) (D) Sitting by the pond
Awaiting my love
I looked above and beyond
A sudden scream, I looked around
Then a shadow fell and there was no sound
The crackle stopped, as so did my heart

Explanation:

The extract from Amanda follows an AABA rhyme scheme (Amanda/Amanda/straight/Amanda for the outer stanza, and sea/me/blissfully for the inner).

Option (A) most closely mirrors this pattern with its rhyming structure (pond/wand/dearest/beyond matching an AABA-like pattern).

Q.8(i) [1 mark]

The young seagull's fear of flying and reluctance to leave his ledge contribute to the development of the theme of independence and courage in the story. Justify.

(Two Stories About Flying)

Answer: The young seagull's fear represents the universal human experience of facing the unknown. His reluctance to leave the ledge symbolizes the comfort zone that holds one back from growth. When hunger finally drives him to take the leap and he discovers he can fly, it reinforces the theme that courage is not the absence of fear but acting despite it. His journey from fear to flight illustrates that independence comes through overcoming self-doubt. The family's role in pushing him (especially the mother's strategy of withholding food) shows that sometimes challenges are necessary catalysts for developing independence and courage.

Explanation:

This question requires students to connect the seagull's fear and eventual flight to the broader themes of independence and courage in the story 'His First Flight' from Two Stories About Flying.

Q.0

In what ways does the contrast between the tiger's natural habitat and its confinement in a concrete cell enhance the poem's exploration of captivity and its consequences for wild animals?

(A Tiger in the Zoo)

Answer: The poem contrasts the tiger's natural habitat (lurking in shadow, sliding through long grass near a water hole, terrorizing the village) with its confined reality in a zoo (locked in a concrete cell, stalking the length of his cage, ignoring visitors). This contrast highlights the loss of freedom, dignity, and natural instincts. In the wild, the tiger is powerful and majestic; in the zoo, he is reduced to pacing

behind bars. The brilliance of his eyes (the only remaining sign of his wild spirit) staring at the stars emphasizes the cruelty of captivity and the animal's longing for freedom.

Explanation:

The poem by Leslie Norris uses vivid imagery to contrast the tiger's life in the wild versus the zoo, exploring themes of captivity, loss of freedom, and the impact on wild animals.

Q.0

The portrayal of the baker's attire and role in the village emphasize the cultural and social significance of bread-making within the community. Elaborate.

(Glimpses of India — A Baker from Goa)

Answer: The baker (pader) in Goa held a significant cultural and social position. His distinctive attire — the kabai (a single-piece long frock reaching down to the knees) — marked him as a recognizable community figure. The baker's daily visits with his bamboo staff (thud on the ground announcing his arrival) were a cherished routine. Bread was central to Goan life: bol (bread) was essential for every celebration — marriages, feasts, and festivals. The baker's prosperous appearance (plump physique) reflected the economic viability of the profession. This portrayal emphasizes how bread-making was not just a trade but a culturally embedded tradition that connected the community.

Explanation:

The lesson describes how the baker was an integral part of Goan village life, with his distinctive dress, daily routine, and the cultural importance of bread in celebrations, all highlighting the social significance of the profession.

Q.0

What happens to the house when the trees move out of it? Comment.

(The Trees)

Answer: In Adrienne Rich's poem 'The Trees,' when the trees move out of the house, the glass breaks as their branches push through. The poet describes the trees moving in half-light through the doors and windows, their roots working to disengage themselves from the floor cracks, leaves straining toward the glass. The house, which had contained these trees like an artificial forest, becomes empty. The departure symbolizes the liberation of nature from human confinement. The breaking glass and struggling branches represent the effort required to break free from domestic constraints. The empty house represents a space that once held captive nature, now returned to its rightful place outdoors.

Explanation:

The poem uses the metaphor of trees leaving a house/conservatory to represent nature's need for freedom and the artificial confinement of natural things within human spaces.

Q.8(v) [1 mark]

How does Valli's desire to ride the bus reflect her aspirations and challenges in context of her daily life?

(Madam Rides the Bus)

Answer: Valli's desire to ride the bus reflects her curiosity, independence, and longing for experiences beyond her small village. Despite being only eight years old, she carefully plans and saves money for the fare, showing determination and resourcefulness. The bus ride represents her aspiration to explore the wider world beyond her doorstep. Her challenges include her age (she is too young to travel alone), limited finances (she sacrifices peppermints and toys to save thirty paise each way), and the need to keep her adventure secret from her mother. The bus journey symbolizes her desire for autonomy and self-discovery, showing a child's determination to experience life independently despite the constraints of her daily routine.

Explanation:

Valli's bus ride is a metaphor for her aspirations for independence and exploration, while the challenges she overcomes (saving money, planning secretly, dealing with adults) reflect the practical constraints of her young age and modest background.

Q.9(i) [1 mark]

How do Anil's initial reaction to Hari Singh's cooking and his subsequent actions reflect Anil's evolving relationship with Hari Singh?
(The Thief's Story)

Answer: When Hari Singh first cooks for Anil, the food is terrible and Anil throws it to a stray dog, but he doesn't dismiss Hari. Instead, Anil decides to teach Hari to cook, read, and write. This tolerance and willingness to invest in Hari's development reflects Anil's generous and trusting nature. Anil's actions — teaching Hari, giving him a key to the house, and trusting him with money — show an evolving relationship from employer-servant to mentor-student. Anil's patience and kindness gradually transform Hari's outlook, making the thief feel guilty about stealing from someone who genuinely cares about his growth. Anil's awareness of the theft (the wet money) and his decision to say nothing further cements their bond, showing his understanding and forgiveness.

Explanation:

Anil's evolving relationship with Hari Singh moves from initial tolerance to genuine mentorship, and his quiet forgiveness after the theft shows emotional maturity and faith in Hari's potential for reform.

Q.0

The unexpected encounter with the voice in the doorway affects Horace's burglary attempt. Elaborate.
(A Question of Trust)

Answer: Horace Danby, a meticulous burglar who planned one robbery a year, was in the middle of robbing Shotover Grange when a young woman's voice from the doorway interrupted him. Believing her to be the lady of the house, Horace

was caught off guard. The woman cleverly manipulated him — she pretended to need the jewels from the safe for a party and convinced Horace to open it without gloves, leaving his fingerprints everywhere. This encounter completely ruined Horace's burglary: instead of escaping with the loot, he was arrested two days later based on his fingerprints. The irony is that the woman was herself a thief who outsmarted the careful planner. The encounter highlights how trust can be exploited and how overconfidence can lead to downfall.

Explanation:

The encounter with the mysterious woman (who is actually another thief) turns Horace's carefully planned burglary into his downfall.

She manipulates his desire to avoid arrest, tricking him into leaving fingerprints and opening the safe for her.

Q.0

The play, 'The Book that Saved the Earth', uses humour and misunderstandings between the Martians and Earthlings to explore the themes of perception and cultural differences. Comment.

Answer: The play uses humour through the Martians' comical misinterpretation of a book of nursery rhymes, 'Mother Goose.' Think-Tank, the Martian leader, initially believes books are sandwiches to be eaten, then vitamins to be consumed. When they finally 'decode' the rhymes, they completely misinterpret them: 'Mistress Mary' is seen as evidence of Earth's advanced agriculture, 'Humpty Dumpty' is mistaken for a Martian invasion warning, and 'Hey Diddle Diddle' terrifies them into believing Earthlings have superior powers (a cow jumping over the moon). These cultural misunderstandings lead Think-Tank to cancel the invasion of Earth in panic. The play humorously illustrates how perception shapes reality and how cultural differences can lead to absurd conclusions when one interprets another culture through one's own limited framework.

Explanation:

The play explores how different cultural contexts lead to wildly different interpretations of the same material, using the Martians' misreading of nursery rhymes as a comedic vehicle for themes of perception and cultural differences.

Q.10(a) [1 mark]

Comment on the reactions and feelings of Lencho and Nelson Mandela when they faced challenges in their lives.

(A Letter to God and Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom)

Answer: Lencho, a simple farmer, faces the destruction of his crops by hailstorm. His reaction reveals unwavering faith in God — he writes a letter asking God for 100 pesos, showing his innocence and deep belief. When he receives only 70 pesos (collected by post office employees), he angrily writes another letter accusing the post office employees of theft, showing his trust in God is absolute but his trust in humans is limited. His feelings shift from despair to hope to anger.

Nelson Mandela faced decades of apartheid, imprisonment, and racial discrimination. His reaction was one of resilience, patience, and determination. Despite 27 years in prison, he emerged without bitterness, advocating reconciliation rather than revenge. On his inauguration day, his feelings were of triumph mixed with gratitude for the sacrifices of countless freedom fighters. He believed that courage is not the absence of fear but the triumph over it.

Both characters show determination in adversity, but their approaches differ: Lencho relies on divine faith, while Mandela relies on human courage and collective struggle.

Explanation:

This comparative question requires analyzing how both characters respond to adversity — Lencho with naive faith and Mandela with resilient courage — and reflecting on their emotional journeys.

Q.10(b) [1 mark]

OR

Discuss how the writers use language to create humour in the poem 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon' and the play 'The Proposal'.

Answer: In 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon,' Ogden Nash creates humour through exaggerated characterization and ironic reversal. The supposedly fierce pets (Ink the kitten, Blink the mouse, Mustard the dog) boast of their bravery but flee when a pirate appears, while the timid Custard (who 'cried for a nice safe cage') heroically devours the pirate. Nash uses comic names, playful rhymes ('Belinda was as brave as a barrel full of bears'), and mock-heroic language to create humour. The contrast between the pets' boasts and their cowardice provides situational irony.

In 'The Proposal' by Anton Chekhov, humour arises from the characters' absurd behaviour. Lomov comes to propose to Natalya but they repeatedly get sidetracked into petty arguments about Oxen Meadows and whose dog is superior. The language escalates comically from polite conversation to heated quarrels, with Chubukov (the father) joining the fights. The physical comedy of Lomov's palpitations and fainting, combined with the verbal sparring, creates farcical humour. The proposal itself becomes secondary to trivial disputes, satirizing human pettiness.

Both works use irony, exaggeration, and situational comedy to create humour.

Explanation:

Both texts use different literary devices to create humour — Nash uses ironic reversal and playful language, while Chekhov uses farcical situations and escalating arguments.

Q.11(a) [5 marks]

Discuss how Bholi evolves through the story. What are the qualities that

contribute to her transformation from a timid girl to a confident young woman?

(Bholi)

Answer: Bholi begins as a neglected, timid child — brain-damaged from a childhood fall, disfigured by pox marks, and stuttering in speech. Her family considers her a liability and shows her little affection. Her transformation begins when she is sent to school, where a kind teacher encourages her and treats her with dignity for the first time. The teacher's patience in helping Bholi speak and learn becomes the foundation of her confidence.

Key qualities contributing to her transformation:

1. Inner strength — Despite years of neglect, Bholi develops resilience
2. Education — Learning gives her self-worth and the ability to express herself
3. Self-respect — She refuses to marry Bishamber when he demands dowry, showing she values her dignity over social pressure
4. Courage — She publicly stands up against the greedy groom, defying her father and social conventions
5. Gratitude — She promises to serve her parents and teach at the school

Bholi's evolution from a stammering, frightened girl to a woman who can refuse an unjust marriage demonstrates how education and compassion can empower even the most marginalized individuals.

Explanation:

Bholi's transformation is driven by education and the kindness of her teacher.
Her journey from timidity to confidence culminates in her courageous refusal of the dowry-demanding groom, showcasing the transformative power of education.

Q.11(b) [5 marks]

OR

Hari's character evolves from being deceitful and opportunistic to remorseful

and seeking redemption.

In the light of the above information, describe how his decision to return the money signifies a moral awakening in him and a newfound appreciation for Anil's kindness and mentorship.

(The Thief's Story)

Answer: Hari Singh initially approaches Anil as a con artist, using a fake name and flattery to gain employment. His sole intention is to steal from his employer, viewing people as targets. However, living with Anil begins to change him. Anil teaches him to cook, read, and write — skills that represent a path to honest living and self-improvement.

When Hari steals the 600 rupees, he initially feels triumphant. But at the railway station, he cannot bring himself to leave. His moral awakening unfolds as he realizes:

1. The money represents more than cash — it represents Anil's trust
2. Education (which Anil provides) is worth more than stolen money — it is the key to a lifetime of earning
3. Anil's genuine kindness is rare and precious

His decision to return the money (slipping the wet notes back under the mattress) signifies his transformation from a thief to someone capable of valuing human relationships over material gain. When Anil gives him 50 rupees the next morning and promises to pay him regularly, Anil's knowing smile shows he understands what happened but chooses forgiveness and continued mentorship over confrontation.

Hari's moral awakening is not sudden but gradual — built through daily experiences of trust, learning, and genuine human connection that he had never experienced before.

Explanation:

Hari Singh's character arc from thief to someone capable of moral choice is central to the story.

His decision to return the money reflects his recognition that education and genuine human relationships are more valuable than stolen wealth.