CBSE Class 12 English 2026 — Set 2 — Answer Key

English Medium

Time Allowed: 3 Hours

General Instructions:

1. This is an answer key — each question is shown with its correct answer and a step-by-step explanation.
2. Questions appear in the original paper order.

Q.1

According to paragraph 1, what role does the suprachiasmatic nucleus play in our daily lives? (Passage: Chronobiology — The Science of Time is within Us)

Answer: The suprachiasmatic nucleus governs the circadian rhythm, aligning our sleep, metabolism, hormone release, and mood with the 24-hour cycle by responding to cues from nature such as the rising sun, fading light, and temperature.

Explanation:

Paragraph 1 explicitly states: 'Governed by the suprachiasmatic nucleus in the brain, this circadian rhythm aligns our sleep, metabolism, hormone release, and even mood with the 24-hour cycle.'

Q.2

How does the author use the metaphor 'the body remembers the sun even when the mind forgets' in paragraph 1? (Passage: Chronobiology — The Science of Time is within Us)

Answer: The metaphor suggests that the body's internal clock is deeply instinctive and biologically hardwired to respond to natural light cues even when the conscious mind is cut off from them, as shown by the camping study that reset participants' circadian rhythms away from artificial light.

Explanation:

The metaphor emphasises that the circadian rhythm is an unconscious, biological process independent of conscious awareness.

The camping study in paragraph 2 supports this — one week away from artificial light resets the rhythm entirely.

Q.3

Read and complete the following sentence suitably (Para 2 — Passage: Chronobiology). The phrase 'biological desynchronization' refers to the state

in which the:

(a) body's natural rhythms no longer align with external time cues. <<

(b) brain stops producing hormones due to stress.

Explanation:

Paragraph 2 describes biological desynchronization as resulting from disruptions (jet lag, night shifts, screen exposure) that cause everything from digestion to memory to be affected — meaning the body's natural rhythms fall out of sync with external time cues.

Option A is correct.

Q.4

Complete the following suitably with ONE advantage with reference to Para 2 (Passage: Chronobiology). Designating specific hours/days for screen-free activity can help _____.

Answer: reset the body's circadian rhythm and restore biological synchronization, reducing the negative effects of artificial light exposure on sleep, digestion, and memory.

Explanation:

Para 2 notes that just one week away from artificial light entirely resets the circadian rhythm.

Reducing screen time therefore helps realign the body's natural clock with external cues.

Q.5

Why does the writer refer to the circadian clock's loyalty to nature as 'inflexible'? (Para 3 — Passage: Chronobiology)

(a) operates independently of external environments.

(b) resists manipulation through artificial means. <<

(c) helps regulate heart rate very quickly.

(d) is governed generally by only genetics.

Explanation:

Para 3 explains that artificial attempts to override the clock (caffeine-induced wakefulness, screen-induced sleeplessness) only work temporarily and come with hidden costs.

The clock resists artificial manipulation — hence 'inflexible' loyalty to nature.

Option B is correct.

Q.6

Provide ONE textual evidence to support 'The body pays a hidden price for tampering with its natural rhythms'. (Para 3 — Passage: Chronobiology)

Answer: Artificial attempts to override the clock such as caffeine-induced wakefulness or screen-induced sleeplessness 'often has a hidden cost: chronic fatigue, hormonal imbalance and weakened immunity.'

Explanation:

Para 3 directly states the hidden costs: chronic fatigue, hormonal imbalance, and weakened immunity — these are the prices paid for artificially overriding the circadian clock.

Q.7

In the line '… societal obligations pull us in one temporal direction, while our biology tugs us in another', what does this contrast reveal about modern life? (Para 4 — Passage: Chronobiology)

Answer: The contrast reveals that modern life creates a fundamental tension between external social demands (work schedules, school timings) and the body's internal biological rhythms, leading to a state of 'social jet lag' where people are chronically out of sync with their own natural clock.

Explanation:

Para 4 introduces 'social jet lag' — a concept where societal obligations and biological rhythms pull in opposite directions.

The contrast highlights the inherent conflict of modern life with natural human biology.

Q.8

Scientists use the term 'social jet lag' in paragraph 4 to describe the modern sleep crisis to _____. (Passage: Chronobiology)

(a) compare how schedules disrupt our internal clock, similar to time zone travel confusion. <<

(b) show that digital tools help improve sleep and daily performance in modern life.

(c) suggest that regular travel is needed to maintain focus and healthy body rhythms.

(d) points out that teenagers stay awake late at night without valid biological reasons.

Explanation:

Para 4 uses 'social jet lag' as a metaphor comparing the disorientation of shifting time zones (as in travel) to the disorientation caused when societal schedules clash with biological rhythms.

Option A is the correct interpretation.

Q.9

Explain why adolescents may be at risk of internal time disruption. (Para 4-5 — Passage: Chronobiology)

Answer: Adolescents are particularly vulnerable because their natural clocks shift later during puberty, meaning they are biologically inclined to sleep and wake later. However, early school timings force them to wake up earlier than their biological clock demands, creating a persistent mismatch. This results in a generation persistently deprived of meaningful rest, compounding health and cognitive risks.

Explanation:

Para 4 explicitly states: 'Adolescents are particularly vulnerable, as their natural clocks shift later during puberty, clashing with early school timings.' Para 5 adds that sleep deficiency is a major risk factor for diseases, depression, and accidents.

Q.10

Based on paragraph 6, identify possible obstacles to applying chronobiological principles in everyday life. (Passage: Chronobiology)

Answer: Possible obstacles include: (1) the difficulty of adjusting deeply entrenched school and work schedules to align with biological peaks; (2) resistance from institutions and society to restructure timing of obligations; (3) the cost and complexity of redesigning light-conscious architecture; (4) lack of public awareness about chronobiology; and (5) the cultural tendency to 'race against time' and prioritise productivity over biological wellbeing.

Explanation:

Para 6 suggests solutions (adjusting school hours, light-conscious architecture, aligning work shifts) which implicitly reveal the obstacles: current rigid schedules, standard architecture ignoring light, misaligned work shifts, and a cultural ethos of speed over rest.

Q.11

In the introduction (Para 1 of Passage 2: The Rise of Urban Farming in Indian Cities), the writer emphasizes on the transformative potential of 'a quiet revolution' by _____.

Answer: describing how urban farming has shifted from being seen as a hobby for the eco-conscious elite to being explored as a practical solution addressing serious urban challenges such as food shortages, environmental degradation, and mental health issues.

Explanation:

Para 1 of Passage 2 calls it 'a quiet revolution' unfolding on rooftops and balconies, contrasting its humble origins as an elite hobby with its growing role as a mainstream practical solution — this contrast underscores its transformative potential.

Q.12

What would the following be classified as? 'In Chennai and Pune, tax

rebates and community grants are now offered to promote green roof tops.' (Passage 2: The Rise of Urban Farming in Indian Cities)

(a) primary purpose
(b) incentives <<
(c) methodology
(d) implications

Explanation:

Tax rebates and community grants are financial and administrative incentives offered by municipal authorities to encourage urban farming.

The passage frames them under 'Methodology' but the nature of the statement — offering rewards to promote behaviour — classifies them as incentives.

Option B is correct.

Q.13

Based on the passage, why might people opt to grow spinach and tomatoes on their own at home rather than purchasing them? (Para 2 — Passage 2: The Rise of Urban Farming in Indian Cities)

Answer: People grow spinach and tomatoes at home primarily to escape pesticide exposure, ensuring they consume safer, chemical-free produce.

Explanation:

Para 2 explicitly states: 'some grow spinach and tomatoes to escape pesticide exposure.' This is the direct textual reason given.

Q.14

If the current trend as depicted in the table continues, which Indian city is most likely to emerge as a national model for tech-integrated urban farming by 2026? Give your reasoning. (Passage 2: The Rise of Urban Farming in Indian Cities — Data Table)

Answer: Hyderabad is most likely to emerge as the national model for tech-integrated urban farming by 2026. The data shows it has the highest projected engagement at 18% in 2025 and its notable initiative is an 'App-based

Micro Farm Programme' — directly integrating technology into urban farming at scale. The upward trend (9% in 2022 to a projected 18% in 2025) and the specifically tech-driven initiative distinguish it from other cities.

Explanation:

The table shows: Bengaluru 9% (2022), Delhi 11% (2023), Pune 15% (2024), Hyderabad 18% projected (2025).

Hyderabad has the highest engagement AND the only app-based (tech-integrated) initiative, making it the most likely national model for tech-integrated farming.

Q.15

Analyze from the given data, what distinguishes Pune's approach from Hyderabad's in encouraging urban farming? (Passage 2: The Rise of Urban Farming in Indian Cities — Data Table)

Answer: Pune's approach is policy and tax-based — it uses a 'Terrace Garden Tax Rebate' (a financial incentive through official policy) to encourage farming. Hyderabad's approach is technology-driven — it employs an 'App-based Micro Farm Programme', using digital tools to guide and scale urban farming. Pune incentivizes through economics; Hyderabad through technology.

Explanation:

From the data table: Pune (2024) = Terrace Garden Tax Rebate (policy/financial incentive);

Hyderabad (2025 projected) = App-based Micro Farm Programme (tech-driven engagement).

The distinction is fiscal/policy vs digital/tech approach.

Q.16

Write any two major challenges that have catalyzed the rise of urban farming. (Passage 2: The Rise of Urban Farming in Indian Cities)

Answer: Two major challenges that catalyzed the rise of urban farming are: (1) food insecurity — population growth and urban food shortages have pushed people towards growing their own food; and (2) pollution and pesticide exposure

— concerns about the quality and safety of commercially grown produce have motivated people to grow chemical-free food at home.

Explanation:

Para 1 lists the catalysts: 'population growth, pollution and food insecurity.' Para 2 adds pesticide exposure as a specific motivator.

These challenges have driven the shift towards urban farming.

Q.17

Name two incentives provided by NGOs or start-ups that encourage urban farming. How does this movement benefit the urban workforce? (Para 4 — Passage 2: The Rise of Urban Farming in Indian Cities)

Answer: Two incentives provided by NGOs/start-ups: (1) seed kits (offered by NGOs like 'Haryali'); (2) app-based guidance and balcony farming workshops (offered by start-ups like 'Rangeen'). Benefit to urban workforce: For young professionals navigating fast-paced lives, urban farming offers control, calm, and climate action — all from a window ledge, providing a tangible means of stress relief and purpose.

Explanation:

Para 4 explicitly names Haryali (NGO) and Rangeen (start-up) offering seed kits, app-based guidance, and workshops.

It also directly states the benefit: 'control, calm and climate action, all from a window ledge.'

Q.18

Which of the following is NOT a challenge associated with urban farming, according to the passage? (Passage 2: The Rise of Urban Farming in Indian Cities)

(a) limited space availability

(b) excessive food production <<

(c) high equipment costs

(d) inconsistent production

Explanation:

The passage (Effects section) lists challenges: lack of space, high initial costs for equipment, unreliable yields, rooftop safety concerns, and water use efficiency.

'Excessive food production' is not mentioned as a challenge — urban farming is criticised for insufficient/unreliable yields, not overproduction.

Option B is correct.

Q.19

The school trekking club is planning a weekend trek from Dehradun to Mussoorie and Kempty falls. You are Pragya/Pragyan, President of the Club. Draft a notice for students of Classes IX to XI informing them about the trek. Include relevant details. Put the notice in a box. (About 50 words)

Answer: A notice of approximately 50 words should be drafted in a box format including: school name at top, the word NOTICE, date, title (e.g., Weekend Trek to Mussoorie and Kempty Falls), body with details (date, destination, eligibility: Classes IX–XI, registration/reporting instructions, contact), and the sender's name (Pragya/Pragyan), designation (President, Trekking Club).

Explanation:

A valid notice includes: heading, date, title, relevant details (who, what, where, when, how to register), and signatory.

The format must be boxed as instructed.

No specific date or fee is provided in the question, so candidates may use appropriate fictional details.

OR

Q.19

(OR — Q3B) The Rotary Club is sponsoring a fund raiser to collect funds to support 'Pratha', a skill education center for girls from less privileged backgrounds. As secretary of the Community Service Club of your school, draft a notice to inform students and invite them to participate in the fund

raiser. You are Shakshi/Srikant. Put the notice in a box. (About 50 words)

Answer: A notice of approximately 50 words in a box format should include: school name, NOTICE heading, date, title (e.g., Fund Raiser for 'Pratha' Skill Education Centre), body (details of event, purpose, how to participate), and signatory (Shakshi/Srikant, Secretary, Community Service Club).

Explanation:

A valid notice format: heading, date, purpose (supporting 'Pratha'), event details, participation instructions, and signatory.

Must be boxed.

Q.20

You are Aanya Gupta/Aarav, a core member of the Green Steps Club, Indirapuram. Your RWA is organizing an 'Eco-Run for Environmental Awareness'. Draft an informal invitation, inviting your friends to participate in this purposeful and energizing run. Include all relevant details. (About 50 words)

Answer: An informal invitation of approximately 50 words should include: a warm salutation to friends, the name of the event (Eco-Run for Environmental Awareness), organised by the RWA, date/time/venue (to be created fictionally), brief description of the purpose (environmental awareness), and an enthusiastic request to participate. Signed by Aanya Gupta/Aarav.

Explanation:

An informal invitation is conversational in tone.

It must include the event name, organiser (RWA), purpose, relevant details, and an invitation to friends.

Specific details (date, venue) may be fictionally created.

OR

Q.20

(OR — Q4B) You are Arvind Narayan, a renowned singer. You have been invited by the Principal of Green Valley International School, Dehradun, to

deliver a guest lecture on 'Owning the Stage'. Write a formal reply declining the invitation, due to a prior commitment. (About 50 words)

Answer: A formal reply of approximately 50 words should include: sender's address, date, the Principal's address, a formal salutation, acknowledgement of the invitation (guest lecture on 'Owning the Stage'), a polite declination citing a prior commitment, expression of regret and good wishes for the event, and a formal closing signed Arvind Narayan.

Explanation:

A formal letter of declination must: acknowledge the invitation, state the reason (prior commitment) politely without over-explaining, express regret, and maintain formal register.

Format: sender address, date, recipient address, salutation, body, formal close.

Q.21

Many apartment complexes and urban homes now use artificial turf and synthetic plants for decoration and landscaping, ignoring the ecological benefits of real greenery. Write a letter to the editor of your city's environmental magazine 'My City' expressing your concern over this trend. Suggest ways to bring back real plants into urban spaces. (120-150 words)
You are Niti/Nikhil Arora, a landscape ecologist residing at Bengaluru.

Answer: A letter to the editor (120-150 words) should include: sender's address (Bengaluru), date, editor's address (My City magazine), formal salutation, subject line (e.g., Concern over the use of synthetic plants in urban spaces), body covering: (1) reasons synthetic plants/turf are gaining popularity (low maintenance, aesthetics, cost); (2) their impact on biodiversity and rising urban heat; (3) importance of real greenery for ecological balance and mental health; (4) suggested roles for schools and city planners (green corridors, mandatory planting policies, school nature gardens); formal closing signed Niti/Nikhil Arora, Landscape Ecologist, Bengaluru.

Explanation:

A letter to the editor must follow formal letter format, address all four cue points provided, and stay within 120-150 words.

The signatory is a landscape ecologist, lending credibility to the concern.

OR

Q.21

(OR — Q5B) You are Sumita/Sumit from Karnataka. You read the advertisement for MERCURY PHARMACEUTICALS requiring a Medical Representative for its Kanpur Office (Qualifications: Graduate in Pharmacy or Business Management; Skills: Excellent verbal/written communication, technical knowledge of pharmaceutical products, familiarity with digital sales tools; Work Experience: 1-2 years in similar position). Write a job application along with your bio-data. (120-150 words)

Answer: A job application with bio-data (120-150 words) should include: sender's address (Karnataka), date, Mr. Srinivasan's address (27 Prakhar Avenue, Kanpur), formal salutation, subject (Application for the Post of Medical Representative), body (reference to advertisement, expression of interest, brief suitability statement), and a bio-data section covering: name (Sumita/Sumit), address, date of birth, educational qualifications (graduation in Pharmacy or Business Management), work experience (1-2 years in similar role), skills (communication, pharmaceutical knowledge, digital sales tools), and declaration. Formal close.

Explanation:

A job application must follow formal letter format addressed to Mr. Srinivasan.

The bio-data (resume) must align with the advertised requirements: graduation qualification, relevant experience, and the three specified skill areas.

Q.22

In a world dominated by screens and social media, the need for regular

digital detox has become more important than ever, especially for teenagers. Write an article for your school magazine highlighting the importance of disconnecting from digital devices for mental clarity, real-world connection, and holistic growth. (120-150 words) You are Neelima/Neel Roy of Class XII B.

Answer: An article (120-150 words) should include: a headline (e.g., 'The Power of Unplugging: Why Teenagers Need Digital Detox'), byline (Neelima/Neel Roy, Class XII B), and body covering: (1) psychological and emotional impacts of excessive screen time (anxiety, reduced attention span, sleep disruption, social isolation); (2) how digital detox helps (mental clarity, better sleep, improved real-world relationships, reduced anxiety); (3) steps for students (scheduled screen-free hours), parents (modelling healthy habits, device-free mealtimes), and schools (tech-free zones, outdoor activities). Concluding thought encouraging mindful technology use.

Explanation:

A school magazine article uses a headline, byline, and engaging prose.

It must address all three cue points: psychological/emotional impacts, benefits of detox, and actionable steps for students/parents/schools.

Word limit: 120-150 words.

OR

Q.22

(OR — Q6B) You are Tarini/Tarun Bedi of Class XII E and a member of the school's library council. Your school recently hosted a pop-up literature café in the library. Write a comprehensive report describing the event, its purpose, student response and how it will contribute to promoting the reading culture in your school. Use the Who-What-When-Where-Why-How structure. (120-150 words)

Answer: A report (120-150 words) should include: a headline (e.g., 'Pop-Up Literature Café: A Celebration of Words'), byline (Tarini/Tarun Bedi, Class XII E), and body structured on the 5W1H framework: Who (students, library council,

teachers), What (pop-up literature café — poetry sharing, flash fiction, themed table discussions), When (recent, specific fictitious date), Where (school library), Why (to promote reading culture, creative expression), How (students shared work, held themed discussions, responded enthusiastically). Conclusion on the event's contribution to fostering a reading culture.

Explanation:

A school report follows a formal structure with headline, byline, and factual/descriptive body.

The Who-What-When-Where-Why-How format is explicitly instructed.

All key aspects (event description, purpose, student response, contribution to reading culture) must be covered within 120-150 words.

Q.23

What does the phrase 'the flower of cities' symbolically represent in the context of the poem 'A Roadside Stand'?

Answer: 'The flower of cities' symbolically represents the wealth, prosperity, and privileged lifestyle of urban centres. The phrase refers to the flourishing economy and financial abundance of cities that the rural poor are excluded from. The roadside stand's appeal is for a share of this urban prosperity to sustain rural lives.

Explanation:

In the poem 'A Roadside Stand' by Robert Frost, the phrase 'the flower of cities' uses 'flower' as a metaphor for the pinnacle of prosperity — the fruits of urban economic success.

The stand pleads not for charity but for a share of the 'cash, whose flow supports the flower of cities.'

Q.24

Read the statement and choose the correct option (Poem: A Roadside Stand). Assertion (A): The roadside stand is a desperate appeal for inclusion in economic progress. Reason (R): The villagers do not seek charity but want to be part of the mainstream financial flow that nourishes urban

centers.

(a) Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A). <<

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

(c) (A) is true, but (R) is false.

(d) (A) is false, but (R) is true.

Explanation:

The poem explicitly states the stand pleads 'not for a dole of bread / But for some of the money, the cash, whose flow supports / The flower of cities.' This directly supports both the assertion (desperate appeal for inclusion) and shows R correctly explains A — the reason they seek money (cash flow of urban economy) is the reason it is an appeal for inclusion.

Option A is correct.

Q.25

Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank (Poem: A Roadside Stand). The roadside stand is positioned at the edge of the road to _____ (attract/discourage) the attention of city dwellers in their cars.

Answer: attract

Explanation:

The poem says the stand is 'out with a little new shed / In front at the edge of the road where traffic sped.' It is positioned at the edge to attract the attention of passing city dwellers and their cars, hoping to make sales.

Q.26

Complete the following suitably: In the excerpt (A Roadside Stand) the phrase 'polished traffic' symbolizes _____.

Answer: the affluent, sophisticated urban motorists who pass by in their shiny cars with their minds focused on their own destinations, indifferent to the rural poor's plea for economic inclusion.

Explanation:

'Polished traffic' uses 'polished' to evoke both the gleaming, well-maintained cars of the wealthy and the refined, self-absorbed nature of city dwellers who pass by with 'a mind ahead', dismissing the stand as a nuisance to the landscape.

Q.27

Which of the following ideas is NOT supported by the extract from 'A Roadside Stand'?

(a) The villagers are seeking alms from the affluent to survive. <<
(b) There is a disconnect between urban wealth and rural struggle.
(c) The signage used by villagers lacks professional polish.
(d) Passing motorists are disinterested in the stand's appeal.

Explanation:

The poem explicitly states the stand pleads 'not for a dole of bread' — meaning they are NOT seeking alms or charity.

They want fair economic participation, not handouts.

Option A contradicts the text and is therefore not supported.

Options B, C, and D are all supported by the extract.

Q.28

What is the message that the poet wishes to convey in the given excerpt from 'A Roadside Stand'?

Answer: The poet conveys the message of rural economic marginalisation and the indifference of the urban wealthy. The roadside stand symbolises the rural poor's desperate desire to be included in the economic prosperity that flows through cities. The urban motorists' dismissal of the stand highlights the deep divide between urban privilege and rural struggle, and the poet calls attention to this injustice.

Explanation:

Robert Frost uses the roadside stand as a metaphor for rural poverty and exclusion.

The message is that rural people are systematically denied access to the economic

benefits of urban prosperity, while city dwellers remain indifferent to their plight.

Q.29

What is the irony reflected in the contrast between Aunt Jennifer and the tigers she embroidered? (Poem: Aunt Jennifer's Tigers — extract from 'When Aunt is dead...')

Answer: The irony is that Aunt Jennifer, who was oppressed, terrified, and burdened in life (shown by her 'terrified hands' and the 'ordeals she was mastered by'), created tigers that are 'proud and unafraid' — embodying the very freedom and confidence she herself was denied. Even in death, while her hands remain ringed with the symbols of her oppression (her wedding band), the tigers she made continue to prance freely — immortalising the spirit she could never live.

Explanation:

Adrienne Rich creates a deep irony: the creator is enslaved while her creation is free. Aunt Jennifer's hands are 'terrified' and 'ringed with ordeals' even in death, but the tigers go on 'prancing, proud and unafraid' — the oppressed woman achieved vicarious freedom only through her art.

Q.30

Select the phrase that suggests the following: The oppressive nature of Aunt Jennifer's marriage. (Poem: Aunt Jennifer's Tigers — extract)

Answer: 'Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by' — the word 'mastered' implies domination and subjugation, and 'ordeals' suggests suffering; 'ringed' evokes the wedding ring as a symbol of the oppressive bond of marriage.

Explanation:

The phrase 'ringed with ordeals she was mastered by' most directly conveys marital oppression.

'Ringed' alludes to the wedding ring;

'mastered by' means dominated and controlled;

'ordeals' means suffering and trials.

Together they paint marriage as a source of domination.

Q.31

What does the imagery of the 'tigers' NOT represent in the given extract from 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers'?

(a) Terror <<
(b) Freedom
(c) Fearlessness
(d) Majesty

Explanation:

The tigers in the poem are described as 'proud and unafraid' and 'prancing' — they symbolise freedom, fearlessness, and majesty.

They are NOT symbols of terror;

rather, they embody everything Aunt Jennifer aspired to but was denied.

Option A (Terror) is the answer — it is NOT represented.

Q.32

The poet's tone towards Aunt Jennifer can BEST be described as: (Poem: Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)

(a) celebratory
(b) indifferent
(c) empathetic <<
(d) judgemental

Explanation:

The poet (Adrienne Rich) portrays Aunt Jennifer with deep sympathy — her terrified hands, her ordeals, her oppression, her inability to escape even in death.

The tone is one of empathy and compassion for a woman trapped by patriarchal norms.

Option C is correct.

Q.33

Aunt Jennifer is referred to simply as 'Aunt' in the end, highlighting _____. (Poem: Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)

Answer: the reduction of her identity to her relational role — she is defined entirely by her relationship to others (as an aunt, a wife) rather than as an individual with her own identity and agency. The shift to 'Aunt' emphasises how patriarchal society denied women a personal identity beyond their familial roles.

Explanation:

Adrienne Rich's choice to drop 'Jennifer' and use only 'Aunt' in the final stanza highlights the erasure of individual identity.

'Aunt' is a role-based, relational term — it reflects how women were reduced to their functions within the family structure, stripped of personal selfhood.

Q.34

State in one sentence, what is your advice to Aunt Jennifer with reference to the given extract and other women like her most likely to include? (Poem: Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)

Answer: Aunt Jennifer and women like her should be encouraged to reclaim their voice and identity, resist oppressive relationships, and channel their inner strength — as embodied by the proud, unafraid tigers — into real-life courage and self-liberation.

Explanation:

This is a personal response question.

The advice should be grounded in the poem's themes: the contrast between Aunt Jennifer's subjugation and her tigers' freedom suggests women must convert their inner artistic/emotional strength into real-world resistance and agency.

Q.35

Complete the following suitably. Bama's description of her observation of an elder portrays a _____ society. (Extract from 'Memories of Childhood: We Too are Human Beings')

Answer: casteist / caste-ridden / deeply discriminatory

Explanation:

The extract from Bama's memoir describes how an upper-caste man carried a parcel by its string to avoid touching her (a lower-caste person), believing contact would pollute him.

This portrays a casteist society where purity is defined by caste hierarchy.

Q.36

What shift in understanding does the narrator undergo after her brother explains the event? (Extract from 'Memories of Childhood: We Too are Human Beings')

(a) confusion to clarity

(b) humour to indifference

(c) laughter to awareness <<

(d) pride to shame

Explanation:

Bama initially found the scene comic — she 'fell about with laughter' at the man's antics with the package.

After Annan explains the caste-based discrimination behind the behaviour, she shifts from laughter to an awareness of the deep injustice of caste prejudice.

Option C is correct.

Q.37

List one emotion that Annan feels on hearing Bama's account. (Extract from 'Memories of Childhood: We Too are Human Beings')

Answer: Annan is not amused — he feels indignation/resentment/solemnity, recognising the serious caste-based discrimination behind the incident that Bama had laughed off as comedy.

Explanation:

The extract states 'Annan was not amused' — in contrast to Bama's laughter, Annan's reaction is serious and unamused, reflecting a sense of indignation or pained awareness of the caste discrimination embedded in the incident.

Q.38

Why according to Annan, did the elder have to carry the packet by the string? (Extract from 'Memories of Childhood: We Too are Human Beings')

Answer: According to Annan, the elder carried the packet by its string because he believed himself to be upper caste and therefore must not touch the narrator (Bama) or anything she had touched directly, as doing so would pollute him according to caste-based beliefs.

Explanation:

Annan explains: 'everybody believed that they were upper caste and therefore must not touch us.
If they did, they would be polluted.
That's why he had to carry the package by its string.' The reason is caste-based untouchability.

Q.39

Complete the following suitably: The idea evoked by the singing of 'Seeing Nelly Home' and having lemonade on the porch strongly evokes _____. (Extract from 'The Third Level')

Answer: a nostalgic, idyllic image of small-town American life in the past (specifically 1894 Galesburg, Illinois) — a simpler, more peaceful existence characterised by community, warmth, and freedom from modern anxiety.

Explanation:

In 'The Third Level' by Jack Finney, Galesburg 1894 represents an escape from the stress of modern life.
The images of porch singing ('Seeing Nelly Home') and lemonade evoke a wholesome, unhurried, neighbourly past — the nostalgic ideal that Charley and Sam both longed for.

Q.40

What is ironical in Sam, the psychiatrist, being the one who 'escapes' to Galesburg and the past? (Extract from 'The Third Level')

Answer: The irony is that Sam — a psychiatrist who had initially dismissed Charley's belief in the third level as a 'waking dream wish fulfilment' born out of modern anxiety — is himself the one who ultimately escapes to the past. The man who diagnosed others' desire to escape has himself surrendered to the same impulse, confirming the very human need he had labelled as an escapist fantasy.

Explanation:

In 'The Third Level', Sam calls Charley's belief a 'wish-fulfilment' escapism.

The irony is that Sam, the rational professional, ends up being the one who actually escapes to 1894 Galesburg, validating rather than refuting the impulse he had tried to pathologise.

Q.41

Why does Charley want Sam to come to the third level? (Extract from 'The Third Level')

Answer: Charley wants Sam to come to the third level because he has found genuine peace and happiness there and wants to share that escape with his friends Charley and Louisa (the narrator and his wife). Sam's note urges them: 'Keep looking till you find the third level. It's worth it, believe me!' — he wants them to experience the same idyllic, stress-free life of 1894 Galesburg.

Explanation:

Sam's note explicitly invites: 'come on back, Charley and Louisa.

Keep looking till you find the third level.' Having found happiness there, Sam wants his friends to join him and escape the pressures of modern life.

Q.42

What is the overall tone that is conveyed through the content and style of Sam's letter to Charley? (Extract from 'The Third Level')

(a) melancholic and uncertain

(b) cheerful and inviting <<

(c) cynical and friendly

(d) detached and factual

Explanation:

Sam's letter is filled with enthusiasm and warmth: 'it's true', 'I'm invited over for lemonade', 'come on back', 'It's worth it, believe me!' The tone is joyful, enthusiastic, and inviting.

Option B is correct.

Q.43

Gandhi's method of engaging with the officials, as depicted in the passage, primarily demonstrated: (Extract from 'Indigo')

(a) the power of non-violent resistance and moral authority. <<

(b) his willingness to compromise on key principles for cooperation.

(c) a tactical retreat to gain future advantages.

(d) a strategy of negotiation and reconciliation.

Explanation:

The passage states Gandhi was 'polite and friendly' yet gave 'concrete proof that their might, hitherto dreaded and unquestioned, could be challenged.' He pleaded guilty but invoked 'the higher law of our being, the voice of conscience' — classic Gandhian non-violent moral resistance.

Option A is correct.

Q.44

Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blanks (Extract from 'Indigo'). The reaction of the officials when Gandhi regulated the crowd was of _____. (bafflement/indifference)

Answer: bafflement

Explanation:

The passage states 'The government was baffled' — the officials felt powerless without Gandhi's cooperation and were confounded by his calm, polite yet firm resistance.

'Bafflement' is the correct option.

Q.45

Complete the following sentence suitably: The government's decision to postpone the trial to consult higher authorities implies that they _____. (Extract from 'Indigo')

Answer: were uncertain about how to handle Gandhi's unprecedented non-violent challenge to their authority, and needed guidance from their superiors on how to proceed against someone who willingly accepted legal consequences while simultaneously asserting moral authority.

Explanation:

The passage says the prosecutor 'requested the judge to postpone the trial. Apparently, the authorities wished to consult their superiors.' This implies the government was unprepared for Gandhi's strategy of civil disobedience combined with open cooperation — they were unsettled and needed direction.

Q.46

What is reflected through the phrase 'voice of conscience' in the given excerpt from 'Indigo'?

Answer: The phrase 'voice of conscience' reflects Gandhi's belief in a moral law higher than man-made law — the inner moral compulsion to do what is right, even at personal legal cost. It shows that Gandhi's disobedience was not lawlessness but an act of moral integrity and duty to humanity.

Explanation:

Gandhi says he disobeyed not 'for want of respect for lawful authority, but in obedience to the higher law of our being, the voice of conscience.' This phrase captures the core of Gandhian ethics — placing moral duty above legal compliance.

Q.47

Choose the correct option (Extract from 'Indigo'). 'On the one hand not to set a bad example as a lawbreaker; on the other hand, to render humanitarian and national service'. The above line from the extract expresses _____.

(a) conflict <<
(b) humiliation
(c) admiration
(d) suppression

Explanation:
Gandhi explicitly describes a 'conflict of duties' — the tension between not wanting to model lawbreaking behaviour and the imperative to serve humanity and the nation.
The line expresses an internal moral conflict.
Option A is correct.

Q.48

Complete the following with a suitable reason: Gandhi asked for the penalty due because _____. (Extract from 'Indigo')

Answer: he wanted to demonstrate respect for the legal system even while disobeying it on moral grounds, and to show that his civil disobedience was a conscious, principled act of conscience rather than mere lawlessness — by accepting the penalty, he gave moral weight and legitimacy to his protest.

Explanation:
Gandhi's acceptance of punishment is a core feature of Satyagraha (civil disobedience).
By asking for the penalty, he distinguished his act from ordinary lawbreaking — it was an act of moral conscience, and accepting consequences showed respect for the rule of law even while challenging its application.

Q.49

Where did she walk after it was dark? (Extract from 'Going Places')

Answer: After dark, she walked by the canal, along a sheltered part lighted only by the glare of the lamps from the wharf across the water.

Explanation:
The extract states directly: 'After dark she walked by the canal, along a sheltered part

lighted only by the glare of the lamps from the wharf across the water.' This is the textual answer.

Q.50

Why does the sound of the city being 'muffled and distant' matter in the context of her present mood? (Extract from 'Going Places')

(a) reflects her desire to escape the noise of daily life.
(b) suggests a peaceful contrast to her inner excitement.
(c) creates a dreamy atmosphere that supports her fantasy. <<
(d) emphasizes her emotional detachment from the real world.

Explanation:

Sophie is living in a fantasy about meeting Danny Casey.
The muffled, distant city sounds remove her from the noise of reality and create a dreamy, secluded atmosphere that nurtures her romantic fantasy.
Option C is the most apt: it creates a dreamy atmosphere supporting her fantasy.

Q.51

How does the description of the setting contribute to the mood of the extract from 'Going Places'?

(a) creates a nostalgic and emotionally reflective tone through memories. <<
(b) builds suspense and tension with dark, unfamiliar surroundings.
(c) highlights a lively and energetic atmosphere with city sounds.
(d) emphasizes a sense of urgency and action in Sophie's movements.

Explanation:

The setting — a sheltered canal path from Sophie's childhood where she used to play, with a wooden bench under a solitary elm — creates a nostalgic, emotionally reflective tone.
Sophie is revisiting a childhood place, adding layers of memory and emotional resonance to her fantasy meeting.
Option A is correct.

Q.52

Complete the following sentence with a reason: She chose the particular location for her meeting because ____. (Extract from 'Going Places')

Answer: it was a secluded, sheltered spot away from the city's noise, a place she had always considered perfect for meetings of this kind — for those who wished not to be observed. It held childhood memories and offered privacy for a clandestine, imagined encounter.

Explanation:

The extract states: 'It was a perfect place, she had always thought so, for a meeting of this kind.

For those who wished not be observed.' The location is perfect because of its seclusion and its suitability for a private, unobserved meeting.

Q.53

Why did she feel that he would approve of her choice of location? (Extract from 'Going Places')

Answer: She felt he would approve because the location was secluded and sheltered — ideal for those who wished not to be observed. As a famous footballer, Danny Casey would need privacy for any secret meeting, and she believed the discreet, hidden nature of the spot would suit him perfectly.

Explanation:

The extract says 'She knew he would approve' of the spot chosen 'for those who wished not be observed.' Sophie's reasoning is that a public figure like Danny Casey would value a hidden, private meeting place — she projects her fantasy onto the choice of location.

Q.54

Complete the following with a suitable reason: She sat down on a wooden bench beneath the solitary elm because _____. (Extract from 'Going Places')

Answer: she was waiting there for Danny Casey — a quiet, secluded spot she felt was perfect for their (imagined) meeting.

Explanation:

The extract says 'She sat down to wait.

It was a perfect place … for a meeting of this kind.

For those who wished not be observed.' Sophie is waiting for her imagined meeting with Danny Casey.

Q.55

Umberto Eco does many things, but says, 'I am always doing the same thing'. Explain. (The Interview)

Answer: Umberto Eco explains that despite his diverse output — academic books, children's books, novels, newspaper columns — all his work stems from a single academic interest in the relationship between reader and text. He is always exploring how meaning is created and interpreted, whether in a scholarly treatise or a popular novel. The variety in form masks the unity of the underlying intellectual preoccupation.

Explanation:

In 'The Interview', Umberto Eco says his work in semiotics, medieval studies, popular culture commentary, and fiction all spring from the same core enquiry — the interplay between the author, the text, and the reader.

'I am always doing the same thing' means the theme is constant; only the form changes.

Q.56

Why was the crofter happy to welcome the stranger into the house? (The Rattrap)

Answer: The crofter was lonely and had no wife or child to keep him company. He was happy to have someone to talk to and share his evening with. He generously offered the stranger food, tobacco, and a place to sleep, glad for the company.

Explanation:

In 'The Rattrap' by Selma Lagerlöf, the crofter lives alone and is genuinely pleased to have company.

The text describes his happiness at having someone to talk to and his generosity in sharing his home and possessions with the stranger.

Q.57

What qualities made Douglas overcome his fear of water? (Deep Water)

Answer: Douglas overcame his fear of water through determination, willpower, and persistence. He hired a swimming instructor and practised methodically, going piece by piece through strokes, breathing, and kicks. Despite recurring terror, he kept returning until the residual fear was completely conquered. His courage to confront the phobia directly, rather than avoid it, was the key quality.

Explanation:

In 'Deep Water', William O.

Douglas overcomes his lifelong hydrophobia through disciplined effort and refusal to surrender to fear.

He worked with an instructor, practised relentlessly, and tested himself in open water (the Warm Lake) until no trace of fear remained.

Q.58

Why did Saheb's family shift from their home in Dhaka to Seemapuri? (Lost Spring)

Answer: Saheb's family shifted from Dhaka to Seemapuri because floods had repeatedly ravaged their home and fields in Bangladesh, destroying their means of livelihood. They came to Delhi in search of a better life but ended up in the slums of Seemapuri, surviving by rag-picking.

Explanation:

In 'Lost Spring' by Anees Jung, Saheb explains that storms and floods destroyed their home and fields in Dhaka (Bangladesh).

The family migrated to India — to Seemapuri on Delhi's periphery — hoping to survive,

but found themselves trapped in poverty.

Q.59

Kamala Das smiles to her mother and says, 'See you soon Amma'. Comment. (My Mother at Sixty-six)

Answer: The words 'See you soon Amma' are a brave, hopeful lie — a desperate attempt to mask the poet's fear that this may be their last meeting as her mother, aged and ashen-faced, is close to death. The smile is a protective performance, a way of shielding both herself and her mother from confronting the painful possibility of permanent separation. The words reflect the universal human tendency to deny mortality in the face of love.

Explanation:

In 'My Mother at Sixty-six', Kamala Das is overwhelmed by the fear of losing her mother (the central ache of the poem).

Her parting smile and words are a facade of normalcy over deep grief and fear.

The phrase 'See you soon' implies return, which counters the poem's underlying terror of an impending final farewell.

Q.60

The Madras and the Tamil drama community were terribly impressed by the plays staged by MRA. Explain with an example from the text. (Poets and Pancakes)

Answer: The Moral Re-Armament (MRA) group staged plays in Madras that drew large audiences from the Tamil drama community. The plays carried strong moral and spiritual messages. An example: the actor Subbu (Kothamangalam Subbu) was so moved by MRA's message and plays that he became a follower of MRA and even tried to incorporate its moral philosophy. The Tamil drama fraternity was impressed by the high production values and the earnest moral content that the MRA plays presented.

Explanation:

In 'Poets and Pancakes' by Asokamitran, the MRA (Moral Re-Armament) staged plays that attracted notable attention from the Madras film and drama community.

The text describes the community's fascination with MRA's plays and their spiritual/moral messaging, with Subbu being one of those influenced.

Q.61

How is the 'Student on Ice Programme', a step towards the future? (Journey to the End of the Earth)

Answer: The 'Student on Ice Programme' takes high school students to Antarctica to experience firsthand the fragility of Earth's ecosystem. By exposing young people to the dramatic evidence of climate change — the ice, the biodiversity, the geological history — it builds an informed, emotionally engaged generation of future scientists, policymakers, and citizens. Students who witness the vulnerability of the polar world first-hand are more likely to advocate for environmental protection, making the programme a direct investment in the planet's future.

Explanation:

In 'Journey to the End of the Earth', Tishani Doshi explains that taking students to Antarctica gives them a visceral understanding of Earth's climate crisis.

The programme aims to create the next generation of decision-makers who will have felt, not just read about, the urgency of environmental protection.

Q.62

How did Dr. Sadao's father's upbringing impact his values and choices later in life? (The Enemy)

Answer: Dr. Sadao's father instilled in him a deep commitment to education and professional excellence, particularly in medicine. He sent Sadao to America for the best medical training, emphasising that Japan's future depended on educated, skilled people. This upbringing created in Sadao an absolute commitment to the Hippocratic duty of saving life regardless of nationality or enmity — the very value

that compelled him to save the wounded American soldier even at personal risk during wartime.

Explanation:

In 'The Enemy' by Pearl S.
Buck, Dr.
Sadao's father's emphasis on excellence and duty shaped his professional ethics.
His father's teaching that education was paramount is reflected in Sadao's unwavering commitment to his medical duty — saving a life, even an enemy's, because his duty as a doctor transcended national loyalties.

Q.63

Why does Mr. Lamb tell Derry to shift his focus from his own scarred face to the world outside? (On the Face of It)

Answer: Mr. Lamb tells Derry to focus on the world outside because he recognises that Derry's obsession with his burned face and others' reactions to it keeps him imprisoned in self-pity and isolation. Mr. Lamb, himself disabled (with a tin leg), has learned to engage with life fully and find beauty in everything around him. He wants Derry to realise that the real disability is not physical disfigurement but the mental withdrawal from life — and that the world is full of richness worth engaging with.

Explanation:

In 'On the Face of It' by Susan Hill, Mr.
Lamb is a mentor figure who challenges Derry's self-imposed isolation.
He has found joy in his garden, in people, in the world — despite his own disability.
His message to Derry is that fixating on one's disfigurement blinds one to the abundance of life outside.

Q.64

In the poem 'Keeping Quiet', nature serves as a model for stillness and rejuvenation and in the poem 'A Thing of Beauty' natural elements offer constant comfort and solace against the hardships of life. Discuss. (120-150

words)

Answer: A response of 120-150 words should discuss: In 'Keeping Quiet' (Pablo Neruda), the poet calls for a moment of universal stillness — no movement, no language — modelled on nature's cyclical renewal. He invokes the example of Earth, which is 'always alive' and 'knows nothing of death' — even apparent stillness (winter) leads to regeneration (spring). Nature's stillness is purposeful, not extinction. In 'A Thing of Beauty' (John Keats), natural elements — the sun, the moon, old and young trees, daffodils, clear streams — are described as an 'endless fountain of immortal drink.' They provide a 'joy for ever' that counteracts 'despondence' and the 'inhuman dearth of noble natures.' Both poems present nature as a source of healing, renewal, and spiritual sustenance for weary human beings.

Explanation:

This is a long-answer comparative question.

The response must cover both poems with textual reference: 'Keeping Quiet' — Earth's model of purposeful stillness and renewal;

'A Thing of Beauty' — natural elements as a perpetual, immortal source of comfort and joy against human hardship.

OR

Q.64

(OR — Q12B) 'The Last Lesson' and 'The Interview' highlight the importance of language in one's life. Comment with reference to the given texts. (120-150 words)

Answer: A response of 120-150 words should cover: In 'The Last Lesson' (Alphonse Daudet), M. Hamel's final French lesson under Prussian occupation underscores how language is the soul of a people — the key to national identity, cultural continuity, and freedom. His declaration that French is 'the most beautiful language in the world' and that a people enslaved can break chains if they hold their language is a passionate defence of linguistic heritage. In 'The Interview', Umberto Eco and others articulate how language — whether scholarly or literary

— is the medium through which human thought, culture, and meaning are transmitted across time. Eco's diverse writing shows language as a bridge between the individual intellect and the collective human experience. Both texts affirm that language is not merely a communication tool but the vessel of identity, thought, and cultural survival.

Explanation:

A comparative answer linking the two texts through the theme of language: 'The Last Lesson' — language as national identity and cultural resistance;
'The Interview' — language as the medium of intellectual and creative expression.
Both elevate language beyond utility.

Q.65

How does Kalki use irony at the end of the story to deliver poetic justice to the Tiger King? (The Tiger King) (120-150 words)

Answer: A response of 120-150 words should cover: The Tiger King (the Maharaja of Pratibandapuram) is obsessed with killing one hundred tigers to defy the astrologer's prophecy that he will die at the hands of a tiger. He kills ninety-nine real tigers, but his hundredth 'kill' turns out to be a tiger that had only fainted — he had missed it. The actual hundredth tiger is later killed by his own soldiers. Ironically, the Tiger King is ultimately killed not by a real, living tiger but by a small wooden toy tiger — a splinter from the cheap, rough-crafted toy tiger gifted to his son pierces his hand, causing an infection and ultimately death. Kalki's poetic justice is perfect: the king who defied a prophecy about tigers by killing them is finally 'killed' by a wooden one — the prophecy fulfilled through the most trivial, humiliating instrument imaginable.

Explanation:

'The Tiger King' by Kalki uses irony masterfully: the king survives real tigers only to die from a toy tiger's splinter.
The prophecy is fulfilled through absurd inversion — real tigers couldn't kill him;
a miniature wooden replica did.

This is classic Kalkian satire on human arrogance and fate.

OR

Q.65

(OR — Q13B) 'No, I will not submit. I will struggle first!' How does Zitkala-Sa's resistance reflect her inner strength and identity? (Memories of Childhood) (120-150 words)

Answer: A response of 120-150 words should cover: Zitkala-Sa's exclamation 'No, I will not submit. I will struggle first!' captures her fierce resistance to the forced assimilation at the Carlisle Indian School. When told her long hair would be cut — a deep violation for Native American women, for whom hair-cutting symbolised mourning and defeat — she hides under a bed, crying and struggling. Her resistance, though ultimately unsuccessful, is an assertion of cultural identity and personal dignity. She refuses to be stripped of who she is without a fight. This act of resistance reflects a profound inner strength: the determination to hold on to one's identity even when surrounded by a system designed to erase it. Her struggle embodies the broader resistance of indigenous peoples against cultural erasure and colonial subjugation.

Explanation:

Zitkala-Sa's resistance to hair-cutting in the extract from 'Memories of Childhood' is the central act of defiance in her narrative.

Her words and actions reflect the indomitable human spirit that refuses to surrender identity — even under institutional coercion.

The hair-cutting has deep cultural significance in Native American tradition.