

CLASS 10

CBSE



BOARD BOOSTER

Rapid Fire Revision in QnA Format



**121 TOPIC-WISE
PYQs**



28 MIND MAPS



**111 MOST
PROBABLE
QUESTIONS**



**SAMPLE
QUESTION PAPER**

**The
Necklace**

**800+
QUESTIONS**

ENGLISH

How to use this Book

Theory in Question-Answer Format: The whole chapter theory has been given in question-answer format. It is very helpful for the students to study and learn the chapter from exam point of view and useful for exam preparation.

- Ans.** (i) (c) He wanted to deliver the bread to the servants.
(ii) female family member
(iii) The loaves are something special and delightful to them. The typical fragrance of the loaves is fondly remembered, pointing to their emotional impact.
(iv) The interaction between the baker and the lady of the house signifies a deeply ingrained social and cultural ritual. The act of greeting the lady and then proceeding with the bread delivery shows respect for the household's hierarchy and maintains tradition within the community.

4. "During our childhood in Goa, the baker used to be our friend, companion and guide." What does this statement imply in relation to the character of the baker? (40-50 words) **3 M (CBSE, 2024)**

Ans. It showed that the baker was close to everyone, especially children. He visited homes daily and brought joy with his bread and bangles. His presence was a happy part of village life and childhood memories.

5. Who are paders and why are they friends of children? (40-50 words) **3 M (CBSE, 2023)**

Ans. Pader is another name for Baker in Goa. He used to be a friend, companion, and guide for the kids. The bread bangles he bought for them were popular with the kids. This was a very special sweet bread.

6. The author says 'During our childhood in Goa, the baker used to be our friend, companion and guide'. Elaborate. (40-50 words) **3 M (CBSE, 2024)**

Ans. The author fondly remembered the baker as a joyful part of Goan life. Children eagerly waited for him, not just for the bread but also for the fun he brought. His visits marked special days. He guided the local customs and added warmth to daily life.

7. 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. (40-50 words) **3 M**

Ans. The baker's attire, such as the *kabai* (a long single-piece frock) or the unique knee-length trousers, symbolized his distinct identity in the village. His role extended beyond selling bread—he was an integral part of every celebration, from engagements to festivals. Bread, cakes, and sweets prepared in his furnace represented tradition and togetherness, making him both a cultural symbol and a social necessity in the community.

8. How does the description of the baker's lifestyle in the past evoke a sense of nostalgia? (40-50 words) **3 M (CBSE, 2025)**

Ans. The author recalls the baker's visits, the jingling bamboo, and the sweet smell of bread with deep fondness. Children eagerly waited for bread-bangles, and the baker was a loved village figure. These warm, vivid memories of simpler times create a strong sense of nostalgia and emotional connection to the past.

9. The narrator shares, "Baking was indeed a profitable profession in the old days." (120 words) **6 M**

(i) What do you feel has changed now? Why?

(ii) State any one way you feel the paders can regain their lost glory.

Ans. (i) The narrator has correctly said that baking was a profitable profession in the old days. However, many things have changed that have probably reduced the profitability of the local bakers. Big brands have replaced small bakers with their competitive prices. The new generation usually gets attracted to fancy advertisements and prefers to buy highly advertised products. Local Bakers, on the other hand, find it difficult to sell their high-quality but less-known or less-advertised products.

(ii) One way to help the paders regain their lost glory could be through people's support for local products. With the growing Internet and Social Media age, people can voluntarily use it to help local bakers advertise their bakery products. Anything true to its quality will automatically gain people's attention.

1. Read the extract and answer:

5 M

"Paper has more patience than people" I thought of this saying on one of those days when I was feeling a little depressed and was sitting at home with my chin in my hands, bored and listless, wondering whether to stay in or go out. I finally stayed where I was, brooding: Yes, paper does have more patience, and since I'm not planning to let anyone else read this stiff-backed notebook grandly referred to as a 'diary' unless I should ever find a real friend, it probably won't make a bit of difference."

(i) Why does the protagonist refer to their notebook as a 'diary'? **1 M**

- (a) To make it sound more important.
(b) To keep their thoughts organized.
(c) To maintain a sense of tradition.
(d) To reflect its purpose as a personal record.

(ii) "Brooding" means _____. **1 M**

(iii) What can be inferred about the protagonist's social interactions based on their statement about finding a real friend? **2 M**

(iv) Which of the following statements is true? **1 M**

- (a) The protagonist plans to share their diary with anyone who finds it.
(b) The protagonist refers to their notebook as a 'diary' to sound more important.
(c) The protagonist feels bored and listless while sitting at home with their chin in their hands.
(d) The protagonist believes that their diary will make a significant difference in their life.

Ans. (i) (b) To reflect its purpose as a personal record

(ii) The term "brooding" means to think deeply and anxiously about something, often with a sense of sadness or discontent.

(iii) Based on the protagonist's statement, it can be inferred that Anne currently lacks a close and trustworthy friend. Their reference to finding a real friend suggests a desire for

genuine companionship and someone they can share their thoughts and feelings with.

(iv) (c) The protagonist feels bored and listless while sitting at home with their chin in their hands.

2. 'Paper has more patience than people.' Explain this statement. (40-50 words) **3 M**

Ans. Anne Frank believed that paper has more patience than people because people often lose interest, interrupt, or fail to understand, whereas paper listens silently and endlessly. Her diary became her trusted friend "Kitty," as it allowed her to pour out feelings she could not share openly with anyone else.

3. Discuss the significance of Anne's diary in her life. (40-50 words) **3 M**

Ans. Anne's first entry is June 12, 1942 after she receives a diary for her 13th birthday. At first, writing in a diary feels strange for her. Like any teenager, Anne longs for a best friend, someone with whom she can share everything. This is why she starts a diary. Anne has friends, of course, but she feels these friends are not "true friends" because they do not have conversations about "anything but ordinary everyday things." With Kitty, Anne hopes she "will be able to confide everything" and that her diary will be a great source of comfort and support.

4. Read the extract and answer: **5 M**

To enhance the image of this long-awaited friend in my imagination, I don't want to jot down the facts in this diary the way most people would do, but I want the diary to be my friend, and I'm going to call this friend 'Kitty'. Since no one would understand a word of my stories to Kitty if I

Questions Based on the Latest CBSE Pattern: The exercises follow the latest CBSE pattern with extract-based, short-answer, and long-answer questions. This variety helps students enhance their analytical and writing skills.

Integrated Concept-Based Questions: The book includes questions that combine concepts from two chapters, reflecting the latest CBSE trend of analytical and comparative questions.

14. Grief or sadness is an emotion natural to all types of loss or significant change. You have been asked to present an analysis of the approaches of Lencho and Kisa Gotami in dealing with their respective losses.

Write this presentation draft including your insights, and comparing the approaches of both. You may begin like this : One acknowledges that Lencho had unwavering faith in God whereas Kisa Gotami in her grief, believed that her son _____; however, _____ (120 words) **6 M (CBSE, 2024)**

(Reference A Letter to God and The Sermon at Benares)

Ans. One acknowledges that Lencho had unwavering faith in God whereas Kisa Gotami, in her grief, believed that her son could still be brought back to life. However, their approaches to loss were very different. Lencho lost his crops in a storm and turned to God with hope and trust, asking for help through a letter. His faith gave him strength to cope. On the other hand, Kisa Gotami was blinded by sorrow and could not accept her son's death. It was only after Buddha's sermon that she understood death is a universal truth. While Lencho

relied on divine intervention, Kisa's grief transformed into wisdom and acceptance through spiritual learning.

15. Analyze and evaluate the role of faith in 'A Letter to God' and 'The Sermon at Benares'. (120 words) **6 M (CBSE, 2025)**

Ans. In both "A Letter to God" by G.L. Fuentes and "The Sermon at Benares" by Buddha, faith is very important in helping the characters deal with their problems.

In "A Letter to God," Lencho has strong faith in God and believes that God will help him after a hailstorm destroys his crops. He writes a letter asking for money. However, When he receives less money than he expected, he thinks the people who helped him are thieves, showing that his faith is only in God and not in the people around him.

In "The Sermon at Benares," Buddha teaches about the reality of suffering in life and the importance of letting go of selfishness to find peace. Here, faith is in understanding life's challenges and accepting them rather than relying on external help.

12. How does Nelson Mandela emphasize the importance of collective struggle in achieving freedom? (40-50 words) 3 M (SQP)

Ans. Mandela's narrative stresses that freedom is not the result of the effort of a single individual but a collective struggle. He honors the sacrifices and dedication of countless others who stood against the oppressive system. This highlights the communal aspect of fighting for justice.

13. Read the extract and answer: 5 M (CBSE, 2025)

It is from these comrades in the struggle that I learned the true meaning of courage. Time and again, I have seen men and women risk and give up their lives for an idea. I have seen men and women stand up to attacks and torture without breaking, showing a strength and resilience that defies the imagination. I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.

(i) What effect does the experience as described in the lines below have on the speaker?
Time and again, I have seen men and women risk their lives for an idea. 1 M

(ii) Select one inference about the idea of courage from the given context:
I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. 1 M

- (a) being fearless
- (b) absence of fear
- (c) feeding your fears
- (d) ability to overcome fear

(iii) Answer in about 40 words, with reference to the extract:

According to the author, what does true courage entail? How does this perspective differ from a common misconception about courage? 2 M

(iv) Fill in the blank with the correct phrase from the bracket in the context of the given extract:

14. Would you agree that the "depths of oppression" create "heights of character"? How does Mandela illustrate this? Can you add your own examples to this argument? (40-50 words) 3 M (NCERT)

Ans. It is true that depths of oppression can create heights of character. Nelson Mandela illustrated it by giving examples of the great heroes of South Africa who sacrificed their lives in the struggle for freedom. There are numerous examples from our country as well. During our freedom struggle, great leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, J.L. Nehru, Chandra Shekhar Azad, Bhagat Singh and many more sacrificed so much to free our country from British rule. Because of the struggle, people learned about these noblemen and how courageous they were.

15. Based on your reading of the lesson, what can you infer about Mandela as a father and as a leader? (40-50 words) 3 M (CBSE QB)

Ans. Mandela was a loving father as well as a great leader. However, to free his country from apartheid, he had to prioritise his role as a leader and stay away from his family. Nonetheless, he sacrificed his life of comfort, his home and his family for the struggle for freedom against racial discrimination in South Africa.

16. Mandela says that his country's greatest wealth is its people and not the purest diamonds. Justify his statement. (40-50 words) 3 M (CBSE QB)

Ans. Mandela believed that the people of his nation were the greatest wealth compared to any other form of wealth. He laid emphasis on people and their power to change the system and bring a new change in society. Even though his country was known to be rich in minerals and diamonds, he particularly believed its greatest wealth to be its people.

17. The transition from the apartheid system in South Africa to a new era of equality reflects broader historical trends in the struggle for human rights and social justice. Elaborate. (40-50 words) 3 M (CBSE, 2025)

Ans. The transition marked South Africa's move from racial oppression to democracy. Mandela's inauguration as the

Includes NCERT-Based & PYQs: The book features a rich mix of NCERT-based and Previous Year Questions (PYQs) to help students understand exam patterns, strengthen core concepts, and practice questions.

Quick "Cheat Sheets" for Easy Revision:
Book includes concise follow-up points and key highlights of each story, designed as handy cheat sheets to help students ponder over the story at a glance.

- 3 A Tiger in the Zoo** —Leslie Norris
- ☐ The poem begins with a caged tiger, restricted in its movements.
 - ☐ The tiger's motions are described as graceful despite its inner rage.
 - ☐ It contrasts the tiger's captivity with its natural habitat, where it should be hunting near a water hole.
 - ☐ The poem emphasizes the tiger's confinement in a concrete cell, separated from the jungle.
 - ☐ The tiger's strength is limited by the cage's bars.
 - ☐ The tiger remains indifferent to visitors and focused on its surroundings.
 - ☐ The sounds of civilization, like patrolling cars, contrast with the tiger's captive existence.
 - ☐ The poem ends with the tiger gazing at the stars, symbolizing its longing for freedom.

- 4 How to Tell Wild Animals** —Carolyn Wells
- ☐ The poem provides humorous rules to identify different wild animals.
 - ☐ It focuses on specific animals like the Asian Lion, Bengal Tiger, Leopard, Bear, Crocodile, Hyena, and Chameleon.
 - ☐ Each stanza presents distinct characteristics or behaviours that help in identifying the respective animal.
 - ☐ The poem emphasizes the importance of observing specific cues or actions to differentiate between the animals.
 - ☐ It uses rhyme and rhythmic patterns to create a playful and entertaining tone.
 - ☐ The imagery and descriptive language add to the imaginative and whimsical nature of the poem.



SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER

6. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given : 5

(A) "Paper has more patience than people. I thought of this saying on one of those days when I was feeling a little depressed and was sitting at home with my chin in my hands, bored and listless, wondering whether to stay in or go out. I finally stayed where I was, brooding. Yes, paper does have more patience, and since I'm not planning to let anyone else read this stiff backed notebook grandly referred to as a 'diary', unless I should ever find a real friend, it probably won't make a bit of difference."

(From the Diary of Anne Frank)

(i) In light of the excerpt, what can we infer about the speaker's emotional state? 1

(ii) The narrator enhances the narrative technique of the extract by using: 1

- (a) descriptive language
- (b) literary allusions
- (c) humour
- (d) reflective

(iii) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket: 1

The narrator doesn't plan to let anyone read her diary as she doesn't have any real _____ (friend/incidents)

(iv) Why does the narrator say that 'paper has more patience than people'?

EXPLANATION

6. (A) (i) Anne Frank feels lonely, sad, and a little depressed. Even though she has family and many people around her, she feels that she has no true friend to share her feelings with. Writing in her diary helps her express her emotions and gives her comfort.

(ii) (d) Reflective

(iii) Friend

(iv)

Marking Scheme	3 Min
Paper listens without interrupting or judging	(1 M)
Paper allows unrestricted writing	(1 M)

Anne Frank feels that people don't always listen or understand her feelings, but paper does. Paper lets her write as much as she wants without interrupting or judging her. So, she finds it easier to share her thoughts in her diary.

Sample Question Paper with Detailed Solutions: Sample Question Paper with Step-by-Step Solutions and Marks Breakdown to Master Answer Writing and Score Higher.

111 Most Probable Questions for Stronger Preparation: Book Contains 111 Most Probable Questions added to strengthen students' concepts and boost their exam readiness!

111 MOST PROBABLE QUESTIONS (ANALYZED & SELECTED FROM PYQs)

Glimpses of India

35. Who are padars and why are they friends of children? (2 M or 3 M) (2023, 2017)
36. How is the Coorgi tradition of courage and bravery recognised in modern India? (2 M) (CBSE QB, 2019)
37. Why is Coorg called the land of the rolling hills? (2 M) (2022, 2020)
38. Which season is the best to visit Coorg? (2 M) (2015, 2014)
39. What legends are associated with the origin of tea? (2 M) (CBSE QB, 2016)
40. What do the elders in Goa still love to remember? (2 M or 3 M) (2022, 2017)
41. What excited Rajvir? Why did Pranjal not share his excitement? (2 M) (CBSE QB, 2018)
42. How is the Goan baker still an important part of the life of a Goan village? (3 M) (SQP-2023, 2023)

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Cheat Sheet



LITERATURE (First Flight-Prose)

CHAPTER 1

A Letter to God

—G.L. Fuentes

- ❑ The story is about Lencho, a farmer, who eagerly awaited rain for his crops and rain finally arrived, but it turned into a hailstorm that destroyed their cornfield.
- ❑ Despite the loss, the family held onto hope for help from God. Lencho wrote a letter asking for a hundred pesos to sow his field again and survive until the next Crop; labeled the envelope "To God" and sent the letter to the post office.
- ❑ The postmaster and employees collected money and managed to send Lencho a little more than half of what he requested to support Lencho's faith.
- ❑ Lencho received the money but became angry.
- ❑ He wrote another letter to God, asking for the remaining money and criticizing the post office employees, calling them "bunch of crooks".

CHAPTER 2

Nelson Mandela: Long walk to freedom

—Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

- ❑ On May 10, South Africa held its first democratic government inauguration, marking the end of white rule.
- ❑ The ceremonies were held at the Union Buildings in Pretoria, which had been the symbol of white supremacy.
- ❑ International leaders and dignitaries attended the inauguration, making it the largest gathering of its kind in South Africa.
- ❑ Nelson Mandela, accompanied by his daughter Zenani, pledged to uphold the Constitution and work for the well-being of the people.
- ❑ Both the old and new national anthems were sung, symbolizing unity and reconciliation between different racial groups.
- ❑ Mandela described courage as not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it.
- ❑ Mandela highlighted the obligation to both family and country, and the challenges he faced in fulfilling those obligations under apartheid.
- ❑ Mandela praised his people's bravery in fighting apartheid and stressed love over hate, saying freedom belongs to all.

CHAPTER 3

Two stories about flying-I (His First Flight)

—Liam O' Flaherty

- ❑ The young seagull was afraid to fly, unlike his siblings.
- ❑ His parents encouraged and threatened him to fly.
- ❑ He watched them catch fish while he stayed hungry.
- ❑ Begging his mother for food, he accidentally flew when she approached with a piece of fish.
- ❑ Though scared initially, he gained confidence and joined his family, enjoying flying over the ocean.
- ❑ His family praised him and offered him food as he successfully completed his first flight.
- ❑ The story explores themes of overcoming fear, gaining independence, and trying new things.

Two stories about flying-II (Black Aeroplane)

—Frederick Forsyth

- ❑ The narrator is flying an old Dakota aeroplane from France to England, looking forward to being with his family.
- ❑ As the flight progresses, the narrator encounters storm clouds ahead, but decides to continue rather than turning back.
- ❑ In the midst of the storm, the narrator spots another aeroplane flying nearby without lights.
- ❑ The pilot of the mysterious black aeroplane waves and signals the narrator to follow.
- ❑ Grateful for the assistance, the narrator obediently follows the black aeroplane, which turns northward.
- ❑ The black aeroplane continues leading the narrator through the storm for half an hour.
- ❑ Suddenly, the narrator emerges from the clouds and sees a runway with lights ahead, indicating an airport.
- ❑ The narrator lands safely, feeling relieved and walks away from his old Dakota.
- ❑ Upon questioning the airport staff about the other pilot, they inform the narrator that no other planes were flying that night.
- ❑ The narrator is left puzzled, as he wonders who guided him through the storm and helped him reach the airport safely.

From the Diary of Anne Frank

—Anne Frank

- ❑ Anne, a 13 year old girl, feels lonely despite being surrounded by family and friends.
- ❑ She decides to start a diary named “Kitty” to find a true friend, as she believes paper has more patience than people.
- ❑ She begins writing about her background and recounts her family’s history and early schooling.
- ❑ She then discusses a tense school result day, where she maintains confidence in her abilities and friendships.
- ❑ Her talkative nature annoys her math teacher, Mr Keesing, who assigns her essays on topics like “Chatterbox.”
- ❑ Anne responds with humor, eventually writing a satire that stops the strict teacher from pointing her out for talking.

Glimpses of India-II (Coorg)

—Lokesh Abrol

- ❑ Coorg, located in the southwestern part of Karnataka state in India, is a district known for its misty hills, lush forests, and coffee plantations.
- ❑ The native inhabitants of Coorg, known as the Kodavu people, have a unique culture and tradition.
- ❑ According to legend, they are believed to be descendants of Alexander the Great’s army.
- ❑ Coffee is the main crop grown on large plantations across the region.
- ❑ Coorg offers various adventure sports such as river rafting, trekking, and camping for tourists.
- ❑ Visitors can also spot elephants, tigers, leopards, deer, and wild boars in their natural habitat.
- ❑ Madikeri serves as the district headquarters and the primary gateway to Coorg, accessible by air or rail.

Glimpses of India-I (A Baker from Goa)

—Lucio Rodrigues

- ❑ The village baker holds a significant role in Goan society.
- ❑ The influence of Portuguese culture can still be seen in Goan bread-making traditions.
- ❑ The bakers use traditional furnaces to bake their bread, and the sound of their bamboo can be heard in some places, announcing their arrival in the morning.
- ❑ Cakes and bolinhas are essential for Christmas and other festivals.
- ❑ Bread holds a special place in Goan life and culture, with people fondly remembering the Portuguese days and their famous loaves.
- ❑ Despite modernization and competition, some traditional bakers continue their family profession.

Glimpses of India-III (Tea from Assam)

—Arup Kumar Datta

- ❑ Pranjol and Rajvir, two friends are traveling to Pranjol’s hometown Assam for the summer vacation.
- ❑ During their journey, they discuss about the various ‘legends’ that are known to have discovered tea.
- ❑ Pranjol is less excited about tea plantations due to his upbringing, while Rajvir finds it fascinating.
- ❑ Rajvir shares legends about tea’s discovery, including Chinese and Indian stories.
- ❑ Tea has a long history, originating in China in 2700 B.C. and reaching Europe in the 16th century.
- ❑ They arrive at Dhekiabari Tea Estate managed by Pranjol’s father.
- ❑ Rajvir impresses Pranjol’s father with his knowledge of tea, including the second-flush period from May to July.
- ❑ The chapter explores tea’s cultural significance, worldwide popularity, history, and medicinal associations.

111 MOST PROBABLE QUESTIONS (ANALYZED & SELECTED FROM PYQs)

Note: Questions in this section are selected based on repetitive themes and concepts from past examinations, though patterns and typologies may vary.

GRAMMAR

1. Read the conversations between a customer and a waiter. Complete the sentence by reporting the waiter's reply correctly: **1 M (2023, 2022)**

Customer: Waiter, come here. The plate is dirty.

Waiter: I'll change it sir.

The customer asked the waiter to come there. He pointed out that the plate was dirty. The waiter politely offered _____.

2. Kabir shared some information with Sahil about his travel plans. Report Kabir's plans. **1 M (2023, 2016, 2015)**

I will go to Tripura tomorrow.

3. Select the correct option to complete the narration of a dialogue between Raj and his wife: **1 M (2023, 2014)**

Raj: I have invited my friends for dinner.

Wife: I'll invite my friends too.

Raj told his wife that he had invited his friends for dinner. The wife added that _____.

- (a) she will invite her friends too
(b) she would invite her friends too
(c) she can invite her friends too
(d) she could invite her friends too
4. Identify the error in the given sentence and supply the correction: **1 M (2023, 2022, 2019)**
- Latex was a natural polymer found beneath the bark of a mature rubber tree.

Use the given format for your response:

Error	Correction

5. Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket: **1 M (2023, 2022, 2019)**

Governments are starting programmes (teach) adults how to read and write.

- (a) that teaching
(b) which taught
(c) to teach
(d) were teaching

6. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the slogan. **1 M (2023, 2020, 2018)**

..... ONLY WEAPON TO FIGHT INJUSTICE IS EDUCATION.

- (a) THE (b) AN
(c) A (d) THIS

7. Select the correct option to fill in the blank for the given sentence: **1 M (2023, 2018)**

Where were you? You be in the class at the right time.

- (a) shall (b) should
(c) will (d) would

8. Complete the given narrative, by filling in the blanks with the correct option: **1 M (2023, 2020)**

NO NEWS GOOD NEWS.

- (a) HAS (b) HAD
(c) IS (d) ARE

9. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the slogan: **1 M (2023, 2019)**

..... EDUCATED MIND CAN TEACH MANY.

- (a) THE (b) A
(c) AN (d) THIS

10. Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following sentence: **(2023, 2019, 2018)**

Twenty years ago, kids at school had never even heard of the internet.

Option No.	Error	Correction
A	years	year
B	at	in
C	had	have
D	the	an

11. Select the correct option to fill in the blank for the given sentence: **1 M (2023, 2019)**

..... you help me cross the road, young man?

- (a) Will (b) May
(c) Shall (d) Might

You may begin like this:

One acknowledges that both, Valli and Mandela _____ however, (Reference - Nelson Mandela - A Long Walk to Freedom & Madam Rides a Bus)

Two Stories About Flying

28. "The sight of the food maddened him". What does this suggest? **2 M or 3 M (APQ-2023, 2020)**

29. Motivation plays an important role in taking risks in life and in succeeding. Do you agree? Discuss with reference to the pilot of the old Dakota and the young seagull.

3M or 6 M (APQ-2023, 2023)

30. Describe the young seagull's first flight.

3 M (2024, 2023)

31. How did the seagull's parents try to make him fly?

2 M or 4 M (2019, 2016)

32. Read the extract given below the questions and attempt that follow:

Inside the clouds, everything was suddenly black. It was impossible to see anything outside the aeroplane. The old aeroplane jumped and twisted in the air. I looked at the compass. I couldn't believe my eyes: The compass was turning round and round, it was dead and would not work! The other instruments were suddenly dead, too. I tried the radio. "Paris Control? Paris Control? Can you hear me?" There was no answer. The radio was dead too. I had no radio, no compass, and I could not see where I was. I was lost in the storm.

3 M or 5M (2023, 2015)

- (i) As soon as the pilot was inside the cloud
 - (a) his ears got blocked.
 - (b) he choked with fear.
 - (c) his vision was obstructed.
 - (d) he was jumping up and down.
- (ii) The devices in the aeroplane were
 - (a) malfunctioning.
 - (b) broken completely.
 - (c) giving wrong readings.
 - (d) stopped responding completely.
- (iii) The Paris air control did not reply to the pilot's call because
- (iv) Select the option that correctly captures the application of the word 'twisted' as used in the extract.
 - (a) Ragini **twisted** Raghav's wrist.
 - (b) Ragini **twisted** the story to suit the occasion.
 - (c) Ragini did not appreciate Raghav's **twisted** bent of mind.
 - (d) Ragini matched the swimmer as he **twisted** twice in the air before diving into the water.
- (v) Fill in the blank with ONE WORD only:
The narrator's comes through clearly when he sees the compass turning round and round.

From the Diary of Anne Frank

33. How did Kitty help Anne overcome her loneliness?

2 M or 10 M (2019, 2016)

34. You have been chosen to present your evaluation on "Sometimes we learn many things from the act of punishment." Write this presentation draft including your insights, in about 120 words in reference to the lesson 'From the diary of Anne Frank'.

6 M (2020, 2016)

Glimpses of India

35. Who are paders and why are they friends of children?

2 M or 3M (2023, 2017)

36. How is the Coorgi tradition of courage and bravery recognised in modern India?

2 M (CBSE QB, 2019)

37. Why is Coorg called the land of the rolling hills?

2 M (2022, 2020)

38. Which season is the best to visit Coorg?

2 M (2015, 2014)

39. What legends are associated with the origin of tea?

2 M (CBSE QB, 2016)

40. What do the elders in Goa still love to remember?

2 M or 3 M (2022, 2017)

41. What excited Rajvir? Why did Pranjol not share his excitement?

2 M (CBSE QB, 2018)

42. How is the Goan baker still an important part of the life of a Goan village?

3 M (SQP-2023, 2023)

43. Read the given extracts and answer the questions **5 M (2024)**

The train pulled out of the station - Pranjol buried his nose in his detective book again. Rajvir too was an ardent fan of detective stories but, at the moment he was keener on looking at the beautiful scenery. It was green, green everywhere. Rajvir had never seen so much greenery before. Then the soft green paddy fields gave way to tea bushes. It was a magnificent view. Against the backdrop of densely wooded hills a sea of tea bushes stretched as far as the eye could see. Dwarfing the tiny tea plants were tall, sturdy, shade-trees and amidst the orderly rows of bushes busily moved doll-like figures.

(i) State any one inference about Rajvir from the given context: **1M**

"Rajvir too was an ardent fan of detective stories, but at the moment he was keen on looking at the beautiful scenery."

(ii) State True or False: **1M**

The reason Rajvir was interested in looking at the beautiful scenery was that the detective book he was reading, was not interesting.

(iii) People who live in big cities are always fascinated by the natural beauty and abundant greenery. Elaborate in about 40 words, with reference to the extract. **2 M**

EXPLANATIONS

GRAMMAR

1. to change it.
2. Kabir informed Sahil that he would be going to Tripura the following day.
3. (b) she would invite her friends too.
4.

Error	Correction
was	is
5. (c) to teach
6. (a) THE
7. (b) should
8. (c) IS
9. (c) AN
10. Option B: Error (at)-Correction(in)
11. (a) Will

WRITING

12. Examination Hall

24th July, 2013

Dear Rajni,

I hope this letter finds you in good spirits despite the unfortunate accident. I was deeply concerned to hear about your injury, but I'm relieved to know that it's not very serious. I want you to know that you are in my thoughts and prayers, and I wish you a speedy recovery.

Missing the SA-II Examination (or final examination) may feel disheartening, but please remember that your health and well-being are far more important. Examinations can always be retaken, but your health cannot be compromised. So, take this time to rest and heal properly.

I'm sure you'll bounce back stronger and be ready to tackle any challenges that come your way. Remember that I am just a call away if you need any help or someone to talk to.

Wishing you a swift recovery and looking forward to seeing you back on your feet soon!

Take care and get well soon.

Warm regards,

Rahul

13. F-112, Kailash Colony,
New Delhi

31st July, 2014

The Editor

The Times of India,
Delhi

Subject: Alarming Traffic Jams and the Need for Sustainable Transportation

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to address the ever-increasing problem of traffic jams in our city, which demands immediate attention and collective action. The escalating traffic congestion during rush hours not only results in significant delays but also contributes to environmental degradation and heightened stress levels for commuters.

As school students and young individuals, we have a vital role to play in mitigating this issue. I urge my fellow peers to consider using bicycles as an eco-friendly alternative to scooters, bikes, and cars for short-distance travel. Cycling not only reduces traffic congestion but also promotes a healthier lifestyle and minimizes the carbon footprint.

Furthermore, city authorities must prioritize sustainable transportation solutions. Initiatives like improving public transportation, implementing better traffic management systems, and encouraging carpooling can significantly alleviate the burden on our roads.

Kindly publish these suggestions in your newspaper so that people get aware.

Yours sincerely,
Sneh

14. 24, Pushp Nagar
19 July, 2015

The Editor
The Telegraph
Lucknow

Subject: Disappointment at the current situation of the roads in our town.

Respected Sir/Madam,

I am Shweta of Pushp Nagar, a concerned citizen writing to express my disappointment at the current state of the roads in our town. The authorities have been claiming that the roads in our town have been relaid and repaired, but in reality, there is no visibility of such work. The situation is becoming worse day by day, causing a lot of inconvenience to the residents.

1. What are the raindrops compared to and why?
(40-50 words) **3 M (APQ, 2023)**

Ans. Raindrops are compared to coins by Lencho. The larger raindrops are compared to ten-cent coins, while the smaller ones to five-cent coins. He was aware that the rainfall would undoubtedly help him in reaping a bountiful harvest. Naturally, he would earn more money as a result. Hence the raindrops were like coins or money to him.

2. Why did Lencho say the raindrops were like 'silver coins'? (40-50 words) **3 M (NCERT)**

Ans. Lencho compared the raindrops with silver coins, which seemed to bring him a good harvest. The way coins (money) bring prosperity, the same way those raindrops looked promising to him.

3. Read the extract and answer: **5 M**

With a satisfied expression, he regarded the field of ripe corn with its flowers draped in a curtain of rain. But suddenly a strong wind began to blow and along with the rain very large hailstones began to fall. These truly did resemble new silver coins. The boys, exposing themselves to the rain, ran out to collect the frozen pearls. "It's really getting bad now," exclaimed the man. "I hope it passes quickly. It did not pass quickly. For an hour, the hail rained on the house, the garden, the hillside, the cornfield, and the whole valley. The field was white as if covered with salt.

- (i) From the paragraph, what can be inferred about the weather conditions during the hailstorm? **1 M**

- (ii) State TRUE or FALSE: **1 M**

None of the options (a)-(c) below can be applied regarding the term 'hailstones' in the paragraph:

- (a) small pieces of ice that fall as precipitation
- (b) round in shape like silver coins
- (c) soft and gentle in texture

- (iii) With reference to the extract, explain the impact of the hailstorm on the field and surroundings in about 40 words. **2 M**

- (iv) Which word in the paragraph can substitute the term 'frozen pearls' without changing the meaning? **1 M**

Ans. (i) From the paragraph, it can be inferred that the weather conditions during the hailstorm were severe and damaging.

- (ii) False

- (iii) The hailstorm had a destructive impact on the field and its surroundings. The hailstorm lasted for an hour, covering the field with a white layer of hailstones, resembling salt. This would have caused damage to the crops and landscape.

- (iv) The substitute word would be 'hailstones.'

4. Why did Lencho's happy mood change into concern? (40-50 words) **3 M (CBSE, 2023)**

Ans. Lencho's happy mood turned into worry when his prediction of rain came true. However, his happiness was short-lived as the rain transformed into large hailstones due to a sudden strong wind. The destructive hailstorm caused extensive damage, including the destruction of leaves, trees, and standing crops. This significant loss left Lencho deeply concerned.

5. Read the extract and answer: **5 M**

Not a leaf remained on the trees. The corn was totally destroyed. The flowers were gone from the plants. Lencho's soul was filled with sadness. When the storm had passed, he stood in the middle of the field and said to his sons, "A plague of locusts would have left more than this. The hail has left nothing. This year we will have no corn." That night was a sorrowful one.

"All our work, for nothing." "There's no one who can help us." "We'll all go hungry this year." **(CBSE, 2025)**

- (i) Why were there no leaves left on the trees? **1 M**

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

- (ii) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the brackets.

Lencho felt _____ (jubilant/devastated) when he saw his destroyed cornfields. **1 M**

- (iii) When Lencho says, "All our work, for nothing," what does he refer to? Explain in about 40 words. **2 M**

- (iv) Why would Lencho have preferred a plague of locusts to a hailstorm? **1 M**

Ans. (i) (c) There was a hailstorm.

- (ii) devastated

(iii) Lencho refers to the hard work he and his family had put into preparing the field and growing the crops. All their efforts were wasted because the hailstorm destroyed everything. Now, they had no hope of harvesting any corn.

(iv) Lencho would have preferred a plague of locusts because, unlike the hailstorm that left absolutely nothing, locusts might have spared at least some of the crop.

6. 'The field was white as if covered with salt.' This is how the field is described after the hailstorm. The pelting hailstones could have been easily seen as sugar cubes. Would comparing it with sugar be more appropriate? Why/Why not? (40-50 words) 3 M (CBSE, QB)

Ans. A hailstorm can be compared to small balls of anything white in colour. But, here, the comparison to salt is much better than sugar cubes as sugar symbolises sweetness or happiness, whereas excess salt signifies spoiled taste or sadness.

The hailstorm spoiled Lencho's fields totally. That's why it is said that the field was white as if covered with salt.

7. Read the extract and answer: 5 M

Lencho was a man of strong faith. For him, God was not an abstract belief but a concrete, physical presence. He went about his work and his life with the assurance of one who knows that God is always watching over him.

(i) What is the main theme of this story? 1 M

- (a) The power of faith and prayer.
- (b) The importance of hard work and perseverance.
- (c) The dangers of relying on others for help.
- (d) The consequences of greed and dishonesty.

(ii) What can be inferred about Lencho's perception of God based on the given extract? 1 M

(iii) Which word from the extract means a feeling of confidence or certainty? 1 M

(iv) What does the author imply about the nature of Lencho's relationship with God through the statement that God is a "concrete, physical presence"? 2 M

Ans. (i) (a) The power of faith and prayer.

(ii) Lencho perceives God as a tangible and ever-present entity, not just an abstract belief.

(iii) "Assurance" in the context of the passage means a feeling of confidence or certainty.

(iv) The author implies that Lencho's faith is so strong that he perceives God as physically real and present in his life, indicating his deep faith and belief in God. This highlights the depth of Lencho's faith and his unwavering belief in God's presence.

8. Illustrate Lencho's unwavering faith in the Divine. (40-50 words) 3 M (CBSE, 2025)

Ans. Lencho had strong faith in God. When hail destroyed his crops, he believed only God could help him. He wrote a letter asking for 100 pesos. Even after receiving less, he was sure God had sent the full amount and blamed the post office workers instead.

9. Lencho was a devout and faithful man. Elaborate on his character and his unwavering belief in God. (40-50 words) 3 M

Ans. Lencho, the protagonist of "A Letter to God," is portrayed as a devout and faithful man. He firmly believes in the power of God and his ability to provide for his needs. This is evident in his letter to God, where he expresses his unwavering faith and Trust in divine intervention. Despite facing hardships, Lencho's character remains resilient and hopeful, showcasing his strong belief in God's presence and assistance.

10. What does the postmaster's reaction to Lencho's letter reveal about his character? (40-50 words) 3 M (SQP 2024)

Ans. The postmaster's reaction shows that he is kind, compassionate, and generous. He is touched by Lencho's deep faith in God and decides to help by collecting money from his colleagues. His actions reflect a good-hearted man who values human emotions and wants to keep Lencho's trust in goodness alive.

11. What idea does the postmaster come up with? What did he do to stick to his resolution? (40-50 words) 3 M (CBSE, 2024)

Ans. When the postmaster read Lencho's letter to God, he was touched by Lencho's faith. He came up with the idea of answering the letter to keep Lencho's hope alive. To stick to his resolution, he collected money from his employees and even gave part of his salary. Though he couldn't collect the full amount, he sent it with a letter signed "God."

12. How does the postmaster's actions in "A Letter to God" contrast with Lencho's beliefs about God's role in his life? (40-50 words) 3 M

Ans. Lencho believes that God will provide for him and address his needs directly. The postmaster, although not God, tries to fulfill Lencho's expectation by collecting money for him. Lencho's view is spiritual and unyielding, while the postmaster's actions bring a human touch to divine expectations.

13. Explain the irony in the chapter "A Letter to God". (40-50 words) 3 M (CBSE, 2024)

Ans. The irony was that Lencho blamed the post office employees for stealing the money, while they were the ones who helped him. He thought God had sent less money, not knowing humans had fulfilled his prayer.

14. Who does Lencho think has taken the rest of the money? What is the irony in the situation? (120 words)

6 M (NCERT)

(Remember that the irony of a situation is an unexpected aspect of it. An ironic situation is strange or amusing because it is the opposite of what is expected).

Ans. Lencho thinks that the post office employees have taken the remainder of the cash, as he had demanded a hundred pesos from God, and within the letter, there were only seventy pesos. Lencho is certain that God couldn't have made an error and blames the post office employees for stealing the money. The irony of this situation is that Lencho doubts the same people who helped him in his difficult time. He thinks that the post office employees stole his money when it's they who collected the cash for him in the first place. He calls them a "bunch of crooks," though they are the ones who tried to keep his faith in God alive by giving him money.

15. There are two kinds of conflict in the story between humans and nature and between humans themselves. How are these conflicts illustrated? (120 words)

6 M (NCERT)

Ans. There are two types of conflicts within the story:

- (i) The conflict between humans and nature is illustrated by the destruction of Lencho's crop due to the hailstorm. Lencho was expecting good rainfall for his crops, which was the only hope he had for his earnings. He had worked hard to feed his family, but unfortunately, nature turned violent and destroyed everything.
- (ii) Another such conflict is illustrated when Lencho demanded money from God; the postmaster and other employees of the post office sent him some money, even though they didn't know Lencho. However, Lencho accused them of stealing some cash, thinking God must have sent the total amount. He called them "a bunch of crooks". This shows that man doesn't have faith in another man, hence a conflict between humans.



16. Analyse and evaluate the role of faith in 'A Letter to God' and 'The Sermon at Benares.' (120 words)

6 M (CBSE, 2025)

Ans. In both "A Letter to God" by G.L. Fuentes and "The Sermon at Benares" by Buddha, faith is very important in helping the characters deal with their problems.

In "A Letter to God," Lencho has strong faith in God and believes that God will help him after a hailstorm destroys his crops. He writes a letter asking for money. However, When he receives less money than he expected, he thinks the people who helped him are thieves, showing that his faith is only in God and not in the people around him.

In "The Sermon at Benares," Buddha teaches about the reality of suffering in life and the importance of letting go of selfishness to find peace. Here, faith is in understanding life's challenges and accepting them rather than relying on external help.

Both stories show how faith can help people, but they have different views on what faith truly means and how it works in life.

17. You have been chosen to give a presentation discussing the themes of faith and providence as presented in "A Letter to God" and "The Black Aeroplane." Prepare your presentation draft in not more than 120 words. 6 M

You may begin this way: Good afternoon, I am honored to discuss two stories today that delve into the themes of faith and providence, namely 'A Letter to God' and 'The Black Aeroplane'...

Ans. Good afternoon. Today, let's talk about the fascinating themes of faith and providence as shown in "A Letter to God" and "The Black Aeroplane." In "A Letter to God," Lencho has immense faith in God to help him through tough times. Despite losing his crops, he believes God will save him and writes a letter asking for help. His faith is so strong that he even believes the money sent by the postmaster is from God. Similarly, in "The Black Aeroplane," the pilot puts his faith in a mysterious black aeroplane that guides him safely through the storm. In both stories, the characters are saved through what they believe is divine intervention, highlighting the power of faith and the mysterious ways in which help can arrive.

1. Read the extract and answer:

5 M

But Ramlal was worried about Bholi. She had neither good looks nor intelligence. Bholi was seven years old when Mangla was married. The same year a primary school for girls was opened in their village. The Tehsildar sahib came to perform its opening ceremony. He said to Ramlal, "As a revenue official you are the representative of the government in the village and so you must set an example to the villagers. You must send your daughters to school."

(i) From the paragraph, what can be inferred about Ramlal's concerns for Bholi? 1 M

(ii) State TRUE or FALSE: 1 M

None of the terms (a)-(c) below can be applied to the term "Tehsildar sahib" in the paragraph:

- (a) a person responsible for revenue collection
- (b) a religious leader
- (c) a school teacher

(iii) With reference to the extract, explain the significance of the opening of a primary school for girls in the village in about 40 words. 2 M

(iv) Which word in the paragraph can substitute the term "concerned" without changing the meaning? 1 M

Ans. (i) Ramlal was worried about Bholi because she lacked good looks and intelligence, according to him.

(ii) False

(iii) The opening of a primary school for girls in the village is significant as it provides an opportunity for girls like Bholi to receive education, challenge societal norms and promote gender equality.

(iv) worried

2. Read the extract and answer:

5 M

Bholi was seven years old when Mangla was married. The same year a primary school for girls was opened in their village. The Tehsildar sahib came to perform its opening ceremony. He said to Ramlal, "As a revenue official you are the representative of the government in the village and so you must set an example to the villagers. You must send your daughters to school."

(i) Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the paragraph? 1 M

- (a) Bholi's sister, Mangla, got married.
- (b) A primary school for girls was opened in their village.
- (c) The Tehsildar asked Ramlal to send his sons to school.
- (d) Ramlal is a revenue official and a representative of the government in the village.

(ii) Why do you think the Tehsildar insisted that Ramlal, being a revenue official, should send his daughters to school? Answer in about 40 words. 2 M

(iii) Which of the following best describes the extract: 1 M

- (a) A narrative description of a setting and events.
- (b) A dialogue between two characters discussing their plans.
- (c) A monologue where the character expresses his inner turmoil.

(iv) If this extract were to be performed on stage, how should the actor playing the Tehsildar emphasize the phrase "You must send your daughters to school" to convey the importance of education? 1 M

Ans. (i) (c) The Tehsildar asked Ramlal to send his sons to school.

(ii) The Tehsildar wanted Ramlal to set an example for the villagers. As a respected government representative, his action would encourage others to educate their daughters too, promoting girls' education and helping overcome conservative attitudes prevalent in the village.

(iii) (a) A narrative description of a setting and events.

(iv) The actor should speak the line firmly and with authority, stressing the word "must" to highlight obligation and importance, while maintaining a persuasive tone that reflects his belief in girls' education.

3. "In time you will be more learned than anyone else in the village. Then no one will ever be able to laugh at you." What effect did her teacher's words have on Bholi? Elaborate. (40-50 words) 3 M (CBSE, 2025)

Ans. The teacher's kind words gave Bholi confidence and hope. For the first time, she felt valued and believed in her own abilities. The encouragement inspired her to work hard, speak up, and become brave, eventually helping her stand up for herself and reject injustice in her life.

4. How does the presence of a supportive teacher change Bholi's outlook on life? (40-50 words) 3 M

Ans. Bholi, initially hesitant and afraid due to her past experiences, finds confidence through education. Her teacher's encouragement becomes the transformative force that empowers her to stand up against her forced marriage. Education gives her the tools to challenge societal norms and take control of her destiny.

5. Education acts as a catalyst for a significant transformation in Bholi. Comment. (40-50 words) 3 M (CBSE, 2025)

Ans. Education plays a vital role in Bholi's transformation. It helps her overcome her fears, gain self-confidence, and develop a sense of identity. With her teacher's support, she learns to speak clearly and think independently, eventually standing up for her rights and rejecting a greedy groom.

6. It is truly said that a good teacher is the light that helps one cross even the darkest of paths through honing their inherent qualities, which enable them to shine bright and strong in life. In what ways does Sulekha's teacher epitomize this saying? How did she become the pillar of support and strength for Sulekha? (120 words) 6 M (CBSE, 2025)

Ans. Bholi's teacher played a crucial role in changing her life. When others mocked Bholi for her appearance and speech, her teacher showed her patience, kindness, and encouragement. She taught Bholi to read, speak with confidence, and recognize her worth. With her teacher's constant support, Bholi began to believe in herself. This inner strength helped her reject a greedy suitor and demand dignity in life. Her teacher didn't just educate her—she empowered her. She is a true example of how a good teacher lights the path of transformation, guiding students not only in academics but also in life's most difficult decisions.

7. The story 'Bholi' explores the theme of self-acceptance and empowerment. Explain. (40-50 words) 3 M

Ans. The story "Bholi" explores the theme of self-acceptance and empowerment. Bholi, the protagonist, faces discrimination and ridicule due to her appearance and speech impairment. However, through her journey, she learns to embrace herself and finds her voice. The story emphasizes the importance of self-acceptance and the power of inner strength in overcoming societal prejudices.

8. In the chapter 'Bholi,' explore the theme of self-acceptance and the power of inner strength. Discuss how Bholi's journey from insecurity to self-confidence highlights the transformative nature of self-acceptance. Support your answer with relevant examples from the chapter, emphasizing key moments that showcase Bholi's

growth and the impact of her inner strength on her life. Write your response in about 120 words. (120 words) 6 M

Ans. Bholi's journey from insecurity to self-confidence in the chapter "Bholi" exemplifies the transformative nature of self-acceptance. Initially, Bholi is burdened by her physical appearance and speech impairment, leading to low self-esteem. However, her encounter with the compassionate teacher at her school becomes a reason for change. Her understanding and support enabled Bholi to believe in herself and express her thoughts. Bholi's newfound confidence is further reinforced when she confronts her elders, who were ready to marry her to a man asking for a dowry from her father. Additionally, her decision to reject the marriage proposal from the rich but greedy man-Bishamber showcases her self-worth and determination to prioritize her own happiness. Through these key moments, Bholi's growth highlights the power of self-acceptance in transforming one's life.

9. Read the extract and answer: 5 M

Bishamber Nath was a well-to-do grocer. He came with a big party of friends and relations with him for the wedding. A brass band playing a popular tune from an Indian film headed the procession, with the bridegroom riding a decorated horse. Ramlal was overjoyed to see such pomp and splendor. He had never dreamt that his fourth daughter would have such a grand wedding. Bholi's elder sisters, who had come for the occasion, were envious of her luck.

(i) What led to the envy of Bholi's elder sisters? 1 M

- (a) Bholi's grand wedding.
- (b) Bishamber Nath's popularity.
- (c) The presence of a brass band.
- (d) The decorated horse in the procession.

(ii) Write a word from the passage for "Great excitement or showiness." 1 M

(iii) Based on the passage, what can be inferred about Bholi's family? 1 M

- (a) They were wealthy and influential.
- (b) They were supportive and loving towards Bholi.
- (c) They had never expected Bholi to have a grand wedding.
- (d) They were envious of Bishamber Nath's success.

(iv) Discuss the significance of the brass band and the decorated horse in the wedding procession. Answer in about 50 words. 2 M

Ans. (i) (a) Bholi's grand wedding.
(ii) Pomp
(iii) (c) They had never expected Bholi to have a grand wedding.
(iv) The brass band and the decorated horse symbolize the grandeur and extravagance of the wedding. They add a touch of celebration and festivity, highlighting

Bishamber Nath's status and making the event memorable for Ramlal. They also create envy among Bholi's elder sisters, emphasizing the contrast between their lives and Bholi's unexpected fortune.

- 10. Do you think Bholi could have confidently refused to marry Bishamber if she wasn't educated? Give reasons. (40-50 words) 3 M (CBSE, 2024)**

Ans. No, Bholi wouldn't have confidently refused to marry Bishamber if she wasn't educated. Her education gave her courage and self-respect. She realised that marriage with a greedy man like Bishamber would ruin her life. Education helped her speak up for herself and take the right decision.

- 11. Imagine you are Bholi and write a diary entry, explaining how you dare to take such a bold step of refusing to marry Bishamber. (120 words) 6 M (CBSE, 2025)**

Ans. 12 April 2024

Dear Diary,

Today was the most important day of my life. I finally stood up for myself and refused to marry Bishamber. I had always been treated as a burden because of my looks and speech. But education gave me confidence and self-respect. When Bishamber demanded dowry to marry me. I realized I couldn't let myself be humiliated for life. I may have been scared earlier, but not today. I refused boldly, in front of everyone. I will not accept injustice just for the sake of marriage. I now know I am capable of living with dignity. I want to teach and help girls like me become strong and independent.

Bholi

- 12. Read the extract and answer: 5 M**

The flames of the sacred fire slowly died down. Everyone was gone. Ramlal turned to Bholi and said, "But what about you, no one will ever marry you now. What shall we do with you?" And Sulekha said in a voice that was calm and steady, "Don't you worry, Pitaji! In your old age I will serve you and Mother and I will teach in the same school where I learnt so much. Isn't that right, Ma'am?" The teacher had all along stood in a corner, watching the drama. "Yes, Bholi, of course," she replied. And in her smiling eyes was the light of a deep satisfaction that an artist feels when contemplating the completion of her Masterpiece.

- (i) What is the tone of Ramlal's words in the line, "But what about you, no one will ever marry you now"? 1 M**

- (a) worried (b) hopeful
(c) supportive (d) indifferent

- (ii) How does the author's use of Sulekha's perspective help build the narrative in the extract? 2 M**

- (iii) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket: 1 M**

The word 'Masterpiece' in the line '...the completion of her Masterpiece' indicates that the teacher sees Bholi as her greatest _____ (achievement / responsibility).

- (iv) How does Sulekha's calm response contrast with Ramlal's feelings in the passage? 1 M**

Ans. (i) (a) worried [Ramlal expresses concern over Bholi's future, reflecting his anxiety about her prospects of marriage.]

- (ii) The author uses Sulekha's calm and steady voice to show her inner strength and determination. Her confidence in facing the future contrasts with the earlier uncertainty about her life, helping the reader understand her personal growth and independence.

- (iii) achievement

- (iv) Sulekha remains calm and confident, showing she is at peace with her choices, whereas Ramlal is worried and uncertain about her future.

- 13. Bholi's real name is Sulekha. We are told this right at the beginning. But only in the last but one paragraph of the story is Bholi called Sulekha again. Why do you think she is called Sulekha at that point in the story? (40-50 words) 3 M (NCERT)**

Ans. Bholi's real name is Sulekha but she was never called by this name as she never took her stand and acted so simple. But she is called Sulekha at that point in the story because she was now a mature and intelligent girl who was able to make her own decisions and was aware of her rights. This was all because she got educated now.

- 14. How does the character of Bholi defy societal expectations and norms by the end of the story? (40-50 words) 3 M**

Ans. By the end of the story, Bholi transforms from a timid, stammering girl into a confident and self-respecting woman. She defies societal norms by refusing to marry Bishamber, who tries to humiliate her father for dowry. Through education and self-awareness, Bholi proves that women deserve respect and equality, not pity or compromise.

- 15. A character arc is the transformation or development of a character throughout a story and refers to the changes a character undergoes as a result of his/her experiences, challenges and interactions with other characters. In the light of the above information, trace the character arc of Bholi in K.A. Abbas's bholi. (120 words) (CBSE, 2024)**

Ans. Bholi's character undergoes a remarkable transformation from a shy, neglected girl to a confident, self-respecting individual. In her early years, she was mocked for her physical appearance and speech defect. Her own family saw her as a burden. However, when she began school, her teacher's affection and encouragement helped her gain confidence and self-worth. The turning point came when she stood up for herself during her marriage proposal. Refusing to marry a greedy, old man, Bholi displayed courage and clarity of thought. She chose self-respect over social



SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Read the following instructions carefully and follow them:

- (i) This question paper contains **11** questions. **All** questions are compulsory.
 - (ii) The question paper contains **THREE** sections-
Section – A : Reading Skills
Section – B : Grammar and Creative Writing Skills
Section – C : Literature Textbook
 - (iii) Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.
-

SECTION - A READING SKILLS

(20 marks)

1. Read the following passage.

10

- (1) Held every year on 21 May, UNESCO leads the celebration of World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development highlighting not only the richness of the world's cultures, but also the essential role of intercultural dialogue for achieving peace and sustainable development.
- (2) A recent international emergency has proved the intrinsic value of the cultural and creative sector at generating social cohesion, educational resource or personal well-being in times of crisis. It has also underscored the sector's potential to generate economic growth, something which is too often underestimated.
- (3) With the adoption in September 2015 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the United Nations, and the resolution on Culture and Sustainable Development adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2015, the message of the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development is more important than ever. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can best be achieved by drawing upon the creative potential of the world's diverse cultures and engaging in continuous dialogue to ensure that all members of society benefit from sustainable development.
- (4) Bridging the gap between cultures is urgent and necessary for peace, stability and development. Cultural diversity is a driving force of development, not only with respect to economic growth, but also as a means of leading a more fulfilling intellectual, emotional, moral and spiritual life. This is captured in the culture conventions, which provide a solid basis for the promotion of cultural diversity. Cultural diversity is thus an asset that is indispensable for poverty reduction and the achievement of sustainable development.
- (5) At the same time, acceptance and recognition of cultural diversity in particular through innovative use of media and Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) are conducive to dialogue among civilizations and cultures, respect and mutual understanding.
- (6) In 2001, UNESCO adopted the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity. Next, in December 2002, the UN General Assembly, in its resolution 57/249, declared May 21 to be the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, and in 2015, the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted the resolution on Culture and Sustainable Development, affirming culture's contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable development, acknowledging further the natural and cultural diversity of the world, and recognizing that cultures and civilizations can contribute to, and are crucial enablers of, sustainable development.
- (7) The day provides us with an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the values of cultural diversity and to achieve the goals of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions adopted on 20 October, 2005.

Answer the following questions based on the above passage:

- (i) Based on the reading and understanding of the above passage, list 2 points to describe the purpose of UNESCO leading the celebration of World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development.
(a) _____
(b) _____

- (ii) Select the option that corresponds to the meaning of the following sentence from para (2).
 The recent international emergency has proved the intrinsic value of the cultural and creative sector at generating social cohesion, educational resource or personal well-being in times of crisis. **1**
- (A) the real worth of cultural sector at generating social cohesion during pandemics
 (B) the real worth of creative sector at undermining the social cohesion during an international emergency
 (C) questioning the real worth of creative sector at generating education resource during an international emergency
 (D) highlighting the real worth of cultural and creative sector at generating social cohesion and educational resource during an international emergency
- (iii) Based on your reading of the passage, examine in about 40 words how Sustainable Development Goals can be achieved. **2**
- (iv) What is the tone of the writer in the given line from paragraph (4)?
 Rationalise your response in about 40 words : “Cultural diversity is an asset.” **2**
- (v) The phrase ‘bridging the gap’ in paragraph (4) refers to: **1**
- (A) widening the differences
 (B) connecting two disparate ideas
 (C) supporting the bridging
 (D) filling in the space between two connected things
- (vi) In sets a-e below, identify two sets of synonyms. **1**
- a. richness and poverty
 b. intellectual and moral
 c. reduction and promotion
 d. essential and intrinsic
 e. urgent and crucial

Options:

- (A) a and c (B) b and e
 (C) d and e (D) b and d

- (vii) Complete the sentence appropriately:
 The Second Committee of UN General Assembly in 2015 adopted _____. **1**
- (viii) Complete the following sentence:
 _____ is urgent and necessary for peace, stability and development. **1**

2. Read the following passage. **10**

- (1) Mango (*Mangifera indica*) is Asia’s most popular fruit, and it has gained popularity around the world. It has long been a component of culture and religion as a useful and tasty fruit. In addition to taste, it has many good qualities thus making it to be called as “King of Fruits”. Major mango-growing states in India include Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu. Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh are the leading states in mango production.
- (2) Mango is grown in an area of 5.58 million hectares of area in the world. India is the largest producer of mangoes with 46.02 and 45.88 percent of the total world area and production, respectively. However, India being the major shareholder in terms of mango production, exports only 0.52% of its total production indicating the huge gap in exporting of mangoes. Peru exports about 46%, Thailand 24%, Mexico 18% and Brazil 11% of their total mango production. These countries are the bigger challenges for Indian mango exports. Hence, efforts are needed to evolve cheap transportation mechanism, enhance the productivity.
- (3) The top importing country is United States of America, however India exports only two percent of its total exports to the USA. The USA, European countries, the UK, Malaysia and Russia can be the other hotspots where India can target to export the mangoes. The critical issue for exporting to the USA is transportation cost (due to sea route distance) and limited shelf life of mango, while for Europe transportation costs as well as competition by African countries are the major hurdles.
- The following chart shows the major export destinations of Indian mangoes in 2019-20:

EXPLANATIONS

1. (i) (a) Highlighting the richness of the world's cultures.
(b) Emphasizing the role of intercultural dialogue in achieving peace and sustainable development.
(ii) (D) highlighting the real worth of cultural and creative sector at generating social cohesion and educational resource during an international emergency

(iii)

Marking Scheme	⌚ 3 Min
☞ Harnessing cultural creativity and diversity. (1 M)	
☞ Ensuring inclusive dialogue and participation for sustainable progress. (1 M)	

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can best be achieved by drawing upon the creative potential of the world's diverse cultures and engaging in continuous dialogue to ensure that all members of society benefit from sustainable development.

(iv)

Marking Scheme	⌚ 3 Min
☞ Tone is positive and appreciative/affirmative. (1 M)	
☞ Recognises cultural diversity as essential for growth and unity. (1 M)	

The tone of the writer in the given line from paragraph (4) is positive and affirmative. The writer values cultural diversity as a crucial element for achieving sustainable development and enhancing life quality, demonstrating a positive and firm acknowledgment of its benefits.

- (v) (D) filling in the space between two connected things
(vi) (C) d and e
(vii) the resolution on Culture and Sustainable Development.
(viii) Bridging the gap between cultures
2. (i) of its exceptional taste, cultural significance, and numerous positive qualities

(ii) fact, objective detail

(iii)

Marking Scheme	⌚ 3 Min
☞ High domestic demand limits surplus for exports. (1 M)	
☞ Transport, preservation challenges and global competition restrict export share. (1 M)	

India being the major shareholder in terms of mango production, exports only 0.52% of its total production. Despite India's large mango production, it exports a small percentage due to high domestic consumption, challenges in transport and preservation, and stiff competition from other exporting countries.

(iv) The three countries that were at par with each other in terms of mango import from India in 2019-20 are USA, Kuwait, and Bahrain each importing 2% of India's mango exports.

(v) One inference that can be drawn from this is that the critical issue for exporting to the USA is high transportation cost (due to sea route distance) and limited shelf life of mango.

(vi) (B) Solutions

(vii)

Marking Scheme	⌚ 3 Min
☞ India Contributes nearly half of global mango cultivation and production. (1 M)	
☞ Favourable climate, multiple varieties, and strong farming practices. (1 M)	

India is described as the largest producer of mangoes in the world because it contributes 46.02% of the total mango area and 45.88% of the total world production. Additionally, India's favourable climate, diverse varieties, and agricultural expertise contribute to its dominance in mango production.

(viii) (C) India is the largest producer of mangoes and by putting in more efforts, has the potential to be the largest exporter too.

(ix) competition by African countries.

3. (i) assistance

Error	Correction
hospitable	hospitality

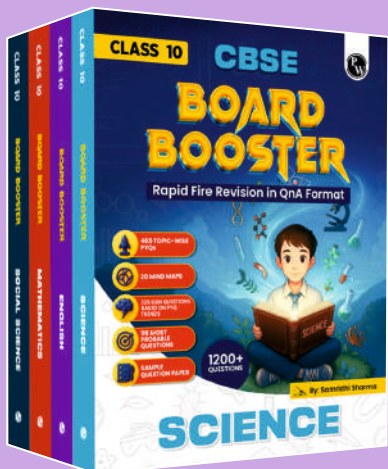
(iii) Manish asked how far the engagement venue was from Kriva's house.

(iv) (b) that all the students would get

(v) communication

Error	Correction
offers	offer

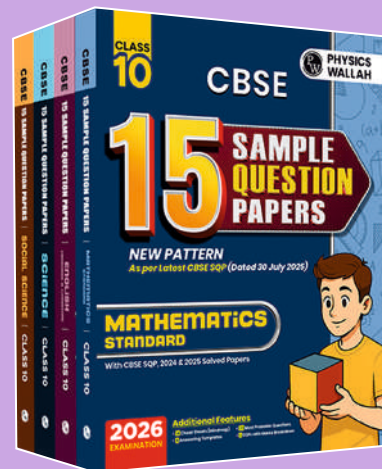
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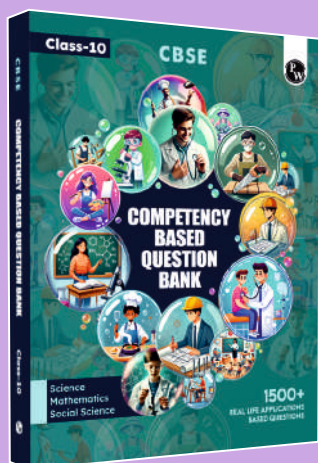
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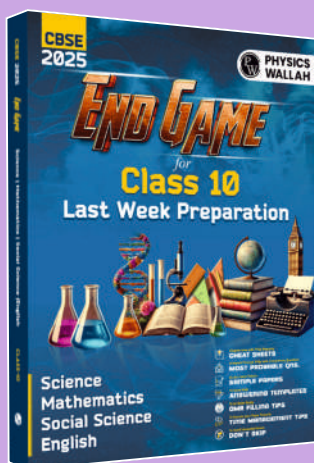
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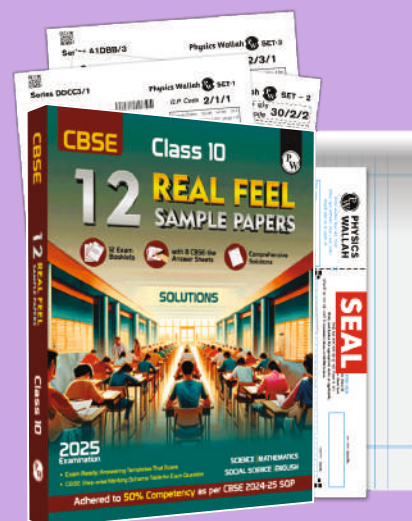
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