

IINDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT
ENGLISH CORE
QUESTION BANK - CLASS XII

Read the extracts given below and answer the following questions by choosing the correct option.

1. Thus agreed, together they lifted the man. He was very light, like a fowl that had been half-starved for a long time until it is only feathers and skeleton. So, his arms hanging, they carried him up the steps and into the side door of the house.

Identify the figure of speech used in the sentence –

‘He was very light, like a fowl that had been half-starved....’.

- a) pun
- b) simile
- c) hyperbole
- d) synecdoche

2. Sadao went back to his office and carefully typed a letter to the Chief of police reporting the whole matter. “On the twenty-first day of February an escaped prisoner was washed up on the shore in front of my house.” So far he typed and then he opened a secret drawer of his desk and put the unfinished report into it.

Why was Sadao unable to finish the letter?

- a) He wanted to discuss with Hana.
- b) He was wavering between medical ethics and patriotic fervour.
- c) He wanted Tom to recover fully and then hand him over to the police.
- d) He was a compassionate doctor.

3. “Trying to scare me, eh? Well, here’s to you! Look!” And off I’d go for another length of the pool. These words of Douglas impresses the readers. Pick the option that correctly speaks of his nature.

- 1. Scepticism
- 2. Determination
- 3. Perseverance
- 4. Zeal
- 5. over enthusiastic
- 6. Will power

- a) 1,2 and 3
- b) 2, 4 and 6
- c) 1, 4 and 6

d) 3, 5 and 6

4. William O Douglas talks about his fear of water and how he overcomes it. The sub theme of Deep Water is.....

- a) a real life personal account of experiencing fear
- b) steps taken to overcome his fear
- c) psychological analysis of fear
- d) Douglas' perseverance and determination

5. "I jumped over the bench and sat down at my desk. Not till then, when I had got a little over my fright, did I see that our teacher had on his beautiful green coat....." This means that

- a) he was afraid that he had not studied participles.
- b) he was relieved he was not going to be punished.
- c) he was relieved to see villagers seated at the back.
- d) he was afraid that he had not studied participles and was late for class too.

6. Then, from one thing to another, M. Hamel went on to talk of the French language, saying that it was the most beautiful language in the world — the clearest, the most logical; that we must guard it among us and never forget it, because when a people are enslaved, as long as they hold fast to their language it is as if they had the key to their prison.

The above lines of M Hamel brings home the point that

- a) language plays an integral role in one's life.
- b) M Hamel and villagers did not know French.
- c) M Hamel and the villagers are upset that French will no more be taught.
- d) is the driving force behind unity of the nation's people.

7. 'This map becomes their window and these windows

That shut upon their lives like catacombs'

1. What does the word 'catacombs' imply of the slum children?

- (a) diseased existence
- (b) secure
- (c) near death existence
- (d) poverty ridden

2. 'Unless, governor, inspector, visitor,....

This map becomes their window and these windows'

Who spells hope for the slum children?

- (a) school
- (b) Shakespeare
- (c) governor, inspector and visitor
- (d) no one

8. 'Mother: And what's he got to say to you?

Derry: Things that matter. Things nobody else has ever said. Things I want to think about.'

1. What specific things about Mr. Lamb does Derry notice?

- (a) A man of firm resolution
- (b) always remains happy in spite of his deformity
- (c) had a positive outlook
- (d) All of these

9. 'Mr Lamb, It's all right....You fell....I'm here,

Mr Lamb, It's all right. I came back. Lamey-Lamb. I did.....come back.

[Derry begins to weep.]'

Why does Derry begin to weep in the end?

- (a) Out of relief as had managed to come
- (b) Mr Lamb was dead
- (c) Mr Lamb did not want him
- (d) His mother prohibited him from stepping out of doors

10. 'Morning found the town of Motihari black with peasants. They did not know Gandhi's record in South Africa. They had merely heard that a Mahatma who wanted to help them was in trouble with the authorities. Their spontaneous demonstration, in thousands, around the courthouse was the beginning of their liberation from fear of the British.'

1. What was the beginning of liberation from fear of the British?

- (a) the people gathered in large numbers
- (b) the support of lawyers
- (c) Gandhi's presence
- (d) the prevailing laws

11. “It was an extraordinary thing ‘in those days,’ Gandhi commented, “for a government professor to harbour a man like me”. In smaller localities, the Indians were afraid to show sympathy for advocates of home-rule.”

1. What was the purpose of the advocates of home rule?

- (a) To get money
- (b) To be popular
- (c) To instigate the people
- (d) To encourage people to participate in the freedom movement

**12. Such the sun, the moon, Trees old, and young,
sprouting a shady boon, For simple sheep; and such are daffodils
With the green world they live in; and clear rills
That for themselves a cooling covert make
‘Gainst the hot season; the mid forest brake**

(i) What makes for itself a cooling covert against the hot season?

- (a) the sheep
- (b) the daffodils
- (c) the dogs
- (d) the clear rills

(ii) ‘boon’ means

- (a) arch
- (b) blessing
- (c) a type of tree
- (d) a covering

(iii) ‘Trees old and young’. What is the literary device here?

- (a) Antithesis
- (b) Allusion
- (c) Simile
- (d) Alliteration

(iv) This stanza talks about the

- (a) The irony of life
- (b) Beautiful things which are present on earth.
- (c) the permanence of nature

- (d) happy things which brighten the days

13. Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing,

A flowery band to bind us to the earth,

Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth

Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,

Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways

Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,

Some shape of beauty moves away the pall

From our dark spirits.

i. From our dark spirits' is a reference to

- (a) our dampened and demoralized spirits
- (b) dark coloured ghosts
- (c) unhappy moments
- (d) the happy side of our personality

ii What fills us with the spirit to live?

- (a) Beauty
- (b) Positive thinking
- (c) Noble natures
- (d) Good health

iii. Find the synonym for the word 'encircle'.

- (a) Pall
- (b) Bind
- (c) Morrow
- (d) Wreathing

iv. 'inhuman dearth of noble natures' means

- (a) no disappointments
- (b) Wise people are more in number
- (c) People lack wisdom
- (d) There is a general lack of nobility in human nature.

14. Sometimes I think Grand Central is growing like a tree, pushing out new corridors and staircases like roots. There is probably a long tunnel that nobody knows about feeling its way under the city right now, on its way to Times Square, and maybe another to Central

Park. And maybe because for so many people through the years Grand Central has been an exit, a way of escape. Maybe that is how the tunnel I got into... But I never told my psychiatrist friend about that idea.

(i) What does the speaker mean by saying “Grand Station is growing like a tree, pushing out new corridors and staircases like roots.”

- (a) Many trees were planted in the station
- (b) It was filled with people
- (c) The station was expanding at a very fast rate just like a tree with its roots.
- (d) All of the above

(ii) Grand Central Station serves as an exit for innumerable people. “Exit” here refers to

- (a) Escape from the harsh realities of life
- (b) The point of exit at the station
- (c) Death
- (d) The point of saturation

(iii) A Psychiatrist is a

- (a) A medical practitioner specializing in diagnosis and treatment of mental illness.
- (b) A person who can read the mind
- (c) A doctor who treats nerve problems.
- (d) A social activist

(iv) But I never told my psychiatrist friend about that idea. Then speaker is talking about which idea?

- a. That the exit leads to Central Park
- b. The station seems like a tree
- c. The station serves as an escape for many including him
- d. The station looked haunted

**15. I saw my mother, beside me, doze, open mouthed, her face
ashen like that of a corpse and realized with pain
that she was as old as she looked but soon
put that thought away, and looked out at Young
Trees sprinting, the merry children spilling out of their homes.**

i. 'Her face ashen like that of a corpse'. Identify the literary device.

- a. metaphor
- b. alliteration
- c. simile
- d. personification

(ii) Why did she look out?

- (a) To distract herself from the painful thoughts
- (b) To get fresh air
- (c) To admire the scenery
- (d) She was nostalgic about that place

(iii) The scene outside the window is symbolic of

- (a) colour and sound
- (b) beauty of nature
- (c) the journey of life
- (d) Growing life and energy

(iv) 'familiar ache' refers to

- (a) Frequent physical discomfort
- (b) Body pain
- (c) The pain and fear of losing her mother
- (d) The hurt feelings

16. What does the Third level signify?

- (a) A third way on Grand Central station
- (b) a human tendency to escape from the harsh realities of the present to past happy times
- (c) A third gate on Grand Central Station
- (d) None

17. Why did Charley visit Sam?

- (a) To consult the incident of Third level incident at Grand Central Station
- (b) To invite him
- (c) to invite him to accompany to Galesburg
- (d) To guide him in Galesburg

18. 'Trees sprinting' is a poetic device. It is

- (a) repetition
- (b) alliteration
- (c) personification
- (d) simile

19. What do the parting words "See you soon Amma" signify?

- (a) her carelessness
- (b) Her optimistic farewell full of cheerfulness
- (c) she bids goodbye like this
- (d) she is in a hurry

20. Jo was starting to fuss with her hands and look out of the window, at the crack of day that showed under the shade. She through the story was all over. Jack didn't like women when they took anything for granted; he liked them apprehensive, hanging on his words.

"Now, Jo, are you listening?"

"Yes."

"Because this is very interesting. Roger Skunk's mommy said, 'What's that awful smell?'

"Wha-at?"

"And, Roger Skunk said, 'It's me, Mommy. I smell like roses.' And she said, 'Who made you smell like that?' And he said, 'The wizard,' and she said, 'Well, of all the nerve. You come with me and we're going right back to that very awful wizard.'"

(a) Choose the option that best demonstrates the relevant traits of Jo and Jack respectively, based on the extract provided.

- (i) curious and irritable (ii) patient and irritable
- (iii) curious and lethargic (iv) patient and lethargic

(b) "Jo was starting to fuss with her hands". This means that Jo was

- (i) feeling anxious (ii) getting restless
- (iii) feeling lazy (iv) fighting sleep

(c) Jo's "Wha-at?" indicated what she was feeling. Pick the option that correctly states these feelings.

- 1. terror 2. surprise
- 3. ignorance 4. displeasure
- 5. joy 6. approval

- (i) 1 and 3 (ii) 2 and 4
- (iii) 3 and 6 (iv) 4 and 5

- (d) Mommy says, "Well, of all the nerve." This reveals her
(i) approval, surprise and pleasure. (ii) pleasure, hope and approval
(iii) betrayal, disapproval and hurt. (iv) shock, anger and disapproval.

21. "You do preach worse than a parson", said the ironmaster. " I only hope you won't have to regret this".

- (a) Who was the ironmaster talking to?
(i) to his workers (ii) to the peddler
(iii) to his daughter (iv) to his companion

- (b) Identify the figure of speech used in the phrase "preach worse than a parson"?
(i) simile (ii) metaphor
(iii) personification (iv) symbolism

- (c) What was she preaching?
(i) the holy Bible (ii) to be kind to the employees
(iii) to be kind to the people around (iv) not to chase away the peddler

- (d) Why did the ironmaster ask her not to regret in future?
(i) because the peddler was a thief
(ii) because he was mistaken and took him to be his old acquaintance
(iii) because his daughter didn't know the ways of the world
(iv) because his daughter was persuading him to allow the peddler to stay

**22. When Aunt is dead, her terrified hand will lie
Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by.
The tigers in the panel that she made
Will go on prancing proud and unafraid.**

- a. What does terrified hand mean?
i. fear and oppression that control her life
ii. she is unable to cope up with her emotions
iii. fear of embroidering her feelings
iv. fear of allowing the tiger's go free.
- b. Why would the hands 'still ringed' signify?
i. The sufferance will continue
ii. She would still be mastered by her husband
iii. Death too wouldn't free her from the ring
iv. Ongoing trap of arduous marriage in a patriarchal society

- c. Aunt Jennifer's creation
 - i. Are animals that are happier and more confident than she is.
 - ii. Are exact representation of her mindset
 - iii. Give an impression of a frail woman
 - iv. is a unique painting of a male dominated society

- d. The tiger will go on prancing because
 - i. They love their freedom
 - ii. They live in the world of green
 - iii. Unlike her their freedom is undying
 - iv. They are ferocious and powerful

23. The fish and chips were delicious, and after a gentle stroll round the centre of Chipping Norton, Evans decided to return to the hotel and have an early night. A smart new hat concealed the wreckage of his closely cropped hair, and he kept it on as he walked up to the reception desk of the Golden Lion. It would take a good while for his hair to regain its former glories — but what the hell did that matter. He was out again, wasn't he?

1. What was Evans doing in Chipping Norton?
 - a. He was hiding in a hotel.
 - b. Evans was enjoying chips.
 - c. He was waiting for his friend to take him to Golden Lion.
 - d. He was there to meet the receptionist.

2. Why did Evans clip his hair short?
 - a) to aid his escape plan
 - b) he was feeling hot
 - c) to give modern look
 - d) to give a young look

3. Why was Evans keeping the hat on his head?
 - a) to cheat
 - b) to avoid cold
 - c) to give a smart look
 - d) to avoid being detected

4. What should be the Governor's plan to bring Evan back to prison from the hotel?
 - a) He should have sent him by air
 - b) He should have sent him with more people
 - c) He himself should have travelled along
 - d) None

24. Evans is good at ___

- a) Making calculations
- b) Learning languages
- c) Predicting the moves of his rivals
- d) German

25. What aided Evan's arrest?

- a) His friends
- b) His gang
- c) Secret agents
- d) The clues Evans left.

**26. Now we will count to twelve,
and we will all keep still
For once on the face of the Earth,
Let's stop for one second,
and not move our arms so much**

a) What could be achieved by keeping quiet?

- i) mental peace
- ii) war could be avoided
- iii) knowledge for the importance of silence
- iv) rest to our body

b) Why is the poet asking not to speak in any language?

- i) to retain harmony
- ii) languages may create troubles
- iii) no one will understand each other's language
- iv) to simply be quiet for an instant

27. Why did the rag pickers choose to remain barefoot?

- i) it was their helplessness
- ii) it was a fashion in their community
- iii) it was a tradition
- iv) they liked to remain without footwear

28. Why is the author embarrassed when Saheb inquires about her school?

- i) Saheb is poor
- ii) school was meant for the rich
- iii) Saheb could not afford to attend such school
- iv) author made a bleak promise that was never meant

Answer the following questions in 30-40 words.

1. What image does Keats use to describe the beautiful bounty of the earth?
2. Why does a thing of beauty never pass into nothingness?
3. Do you think that the third level was a medium of escape for Charley? Why?
4. What do you infer from Sam's letter to Charley?
5. How did Kamala Das put away the thought of her mother's old age?
6. What childhood fear does Kamala Das have? Why?
7. 'It seems a pity that we cannot better combine the German ruthlessness with the American sentimentality.' Explain.
8. 'Everything here had been Japanese to please the old man, who would never in his own home sit on a chair or sleep in a foreign bed.' What does this throw light about Sadao's father?
9. 'Will they make them sing in German, even the pigeons?' What could this mean?
10. What did M Hamel reveal at the start of the class?
11. What were the short term consequences that Douglas experienced after being drowned in the YMCA pool?
12. 'The instructor was finished. But I was not finished.' Why does Douglas say so?
13. The poet says, 'And yet, for these children, these windows, not this map, their world...' Which world do these children belong to? Which world is inaccessible to them?
14. In spite of despair and disease pervading the lives of the slum children, they are not devoid of hope. How far do you agree?
15. Why does Mr Lamb say, "So you are not lost, are you? Not altogether?"
16. Mr Lamb told Derry the story of a man who hid himself in his room. Why did the man do so and with what result?
17. "The battle of Champaran is won!" What led Gandhiji to make this remark?
18. What did the British planters try to do when they came to know that synthetic indigo had been developed by Germany
19. Why did Evans want to keep the hat with him?
20. Why was Evans being ordered to take his razor out of the cell?
21. What plan did the Governor make to catch Evans?.
22. What did Evans say after being caught by the police?
23. How do 'denizens' and 'chivalric' add to our understanding of the tigers' attitude?
24. What picture of male chauvinism (tyranny) do we find in the poem, 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers'?
25. What part of the story did Jack himself enjoy the most and why? Who is Jo? How does she respond to her father's story-telling?
26. How are people single-minded? What does the poet advice to such people in the poem 'Keeping Quiet'?
27. What is the sadness that the poet refers to in the poem, 'Keeping Quiet'?
28. Why is Saheb not bothered about wearing the torn shoes?

29. Explain the use of literary devices used here: “ an army of barefoot boys who appear like the morning birds and disappear at noon.”

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS (word limit 120-150)

1. Our mother tongues are considered to be one of the most significant components of our identity. The language we speak outlines our culture and heritage while helping us create a powerful sense of self. M Hamel tells the villagers to hold fast to their language as it is the key to their prison. Write an article on how mother tongue unites the people of a nation with reference to ‘The Last Lesson’.
2. President Roosevelt in one of his inaugural address says, “So first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is ...fear itself – nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance.” How does Douglas paralyze his terror or fear and convert his retreat into advance?
3. Tom is full of gratitude towards Sadao as he saved his life. However, his arrival destroyed the peace of Sadao’s home. Discuss.
4. Why did the peddler keep to the woods after leaving the crofter’s cottage? How did he feel?
5. ” Edla sat and hung her head even more dejectedly than usual.” Which two reasons forced her to behave in that manner?
6. Compare and contrast the character of the ironmaster with that of his daughter.
7. Why does the Stephen Spender say that the pictures and maps in the elementary school classroom are not meaningful for the slum children?
8. Derry sneaked into Mr Lamb’s garden and it became a turning point in his life. Comment
9. Exploitation is a universal phenomenon. The poor indigo farmers were exploited by the British landlords to which Gandhiji objected. Even after our independence, we find exploitation in unorganised labour sector. What values do we learn from Gandhiji’s campaign to counter the present day problems of exploitation?
10. What impression do you form of Jack as a father?
10. Analyse the symbols and poetic devices employed in the poem.
11. The poem My Mother at Sixty Six brings home the theme that ageing is a natural process and is going to envelop one and all. Comment.
12. Write in brief the central idea of the poem ‘A Thing of Beauty’.
13. How does Charley make his description of the third level very realistic?
14. Slums are the ugly underbelly of all big cities the world over. Describe the contrasting world of ‘haves’ and ‘have-nots’ inhabiting these two worlds.

SHORT WRITING SKILLS (word limit- 50 words)

Q.1 A famous shoe store is organizing a mega sale of footwear and leather bags. Draft a promotional display advertisement.

2. You are Rohan Khanna/Rohini Suresh, of 149 Circular Road, Panipat. Write an application to the Principal, The Educators, Panipat in response to an advertisement for the post of a Music teacher in that school.

3. You have retired recently from service as a senior officer with the Delhi Jal Board. You wish for a suitable placement in the private sector. Draft an advertisement for the classified columns of a national daily newspaper.

4. You wish to open a boutique and are looking for a suitable place to purchase. Draft an advertisement for it to be published in The Indian Express, Ambala, under classified columns, giving all relevant details.

5. You are a student of Hillston Public School, Nagpur. The school is holding its annual function on Saturday, the 15th December, 2020 at 11 a.m. The HRD Minister Dr M.M. Joshi has consented to be the chief guest. Design an invitation card to be sent to the parents and other invitees. Do not exceed 50 words.

6. You are Ankit/Ankita Verma. Your friend from Malaysia is staying in the hostel. Invite him/her to join for New Year celebrations with you at your residence.

7. The Literary Club of your school is putting up the play 'Waiting for Godot'. As secretary of the club, draft an invitation inviting the famous writer Sudeesh Gupta to be the guest of honour at the function. Write the invitation in about 50 words. You are Govinda/Gauri.

8. Commerce Association IBM School Faridabad is inviting Professor P.C. Seth to speak on 'Tax Reforms-the Need of the Hour'. As the Secretary of the Commerce Association, write a notice inviting the students to attend the lecture. Give details.

9. You are Shakti/Shalini working as the Students' Representative on the Management Committee of your school. The committee is going to meet next week to chalk out an academic programme for the next year. To ensure that the committee really prepares a need-based programme for the students you have decided to invite the students' suggestions on this subject. Write a notice in this regard in not more than 50 words

LONG WRITING SKILLS (word limit- 120 -150 words)

Q1. Through newspapers we get to know how patients from abroad come to hospitals in India and get treatment at a fraction of expenses they would have incurred elsewhere. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily describing the importance of medical tourism in India. You are Anil/Anita of 112 Mall Road, Shimla.

2. You are Ankit/Amrita, staying at No.4, Pycrofts Road, Chennai. You have come across an advertisement in The Times of India for recruitment of Computer Engineer trainees by Shivam Software. Apply in response to this advertisement, giving your detailed bio-data (curriculum vitae). Invent all necessary details.

3. Bani Mehta is a social worker. She thinks that all progress and advancement of the nation is being neutralised by population explosion. She writes an article for the Indian Express, Ahmedabad, expressing her concern about the alarming growth of population and suggesting some concrete steps to check it. Write this article in about 120-150 words.

4. Mrs. Gita Bhatt of Dungarpur, Rajasthan feels disturbed to see that in spite of all possible help from government and voluntary organisations, the victims of drought in Barmer and other drought affected areas are not getting sufficient food, water and medicines. She being extremely sensitive decides to write an article on the need of immediate help to these persons for publication in The Jaipur Times. Write the article in not more than 120-150 words.

5. You are Krishna/Kavita, a resident of sunshine Helios. Recently the festival of Janmashtmi has been celebrated enthusiastically in your society. Write a report on the celebration in 120-150 words. You may use the cues given below along with your own ideas.

- Devotion and enthusiasm seen everywhere
- Nicely decorated Balgopal was kept inside the temple
- Devotees offered prayers
- Cultural program conducted
- Program ended with singing of bhajans

6. You are Vijay/Vijaya, Head Boy/Head Girl of Army Public School Vasant Kunj. Write a report in 120-150 words on the felicitation ceremony held in your school. You may use the clues given below along with your ideas.

- Felicitation ceremony for academic & co-curricular achievers
- Chief Guest of the program
- Welcome dance
- Address by Principal & Chief Guest
- Cash tokens to the toppers & all round topper

7. You are Sujatha/Sujoy, resident of 112-B, Anmol Nagar, Ujjain. You are pained to see the increasing cases of female foeticide. Write a letter to the editor of News-24, giving some suggestions to make the people aware of this in 120-150 words.

8. You are Nithin/Nitima living in Mysore. You have completed Hotel management Course and looking for a job. While browsing through The Times of India you came across an advertisement for the post of an executive chef in Hotel Marriot. Write an application in about 120-150 words for the same giving your resume.

Hotel Mariott

Vacancy for the post of Exective Chef

Hotel Marriott, Bangalore, is looking for an executive chef for immediate placement. She/he should have in-depth knowledge of F &B Kitchen Management and Controls, good communication skills and specialize in culinary art. Apply within seven working days of publication of this advertisement to the HR Manager, Hotel Marriott, Bangalore.
