

FINAL 50

Most Probable Questions Boards 2026

This section features questions meticulously compiled by expert teachers with extensive experience, based on examination trends over the past five years. These questions are likely to appear in the 2026 examination. However, we strongly recommend that you prepare the entire syllabus to ensure comprehensive readiness.

Short Answer Type Questions

Prose

Q.1 Evaluate the significance of Lencho's comparison of the big raindrops to ten-cent pieces and the smaller ones to five-cent pieces. How does this metaphor enhance the understanding of his perspective on the rain?

Ans. Lencho's comparison of the big raindrops to ten-cent pieces and the smaller ones to five-cent pieces brings out his perspective on the rain as a valuable resource. This metaphor exemplifies how he views the rain not just as water, but as a form of capital essential for his crops and therefore, his livelihood.

By comparing raindrops to money, Lencho highlights the crucial role that rainfall plays in his agricultural success and economic growth.

Q.2 Justify the irony in the chapter, 'A Letter to God'.

Ans. In the chapter 'A Letter to God,' the irony lies in the fact that the protagonist, Lencho, writes a letter to God asking for money to help him recover from a devastating hailstorm. When Lencho later receives assistance from the postmaster, he becomes angry and blames God for not sending him the full amount he requested, showing a lack of faith and insight into the perplexing ways in which help can be provided.

Q.3 Do you think "The oppressed and the oppressor alike are robbed of their humanity"? Explain. (Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom)

Ans. The concluding line of Mandela's inaugural speech clarifies that he considers both the oppressed and the oppressor to be the prisoners who are deprived of humanity.

The oppressed undergo physical torture while the oppressor is bound by hatred which keeps him trapped in the grip of prejudice and narrow-mindedness. So, it is essential to liberate both of them leading life with respect and dignity.

Q.4 "Hunger plays a pivotal role in nurturing life." Analyse this statement in light of the chapter 'His First Flight' written by Liam O'Flaherty.

Ans. In 'His First Flight', hunger indeed serves as a vital motivator for the young seagull's growth. The seagull's desperate need for food drives it to overcome fear and learn to fly, essential for survival. Hunger forces the seagull to venture into the unknown, implying how basic instincts like hunger drive life-sustaining actions and growth in the natural world.

Q.5 How does nature play a crucial role in conveying the theme of the chapter 'The Black Aeroplane'?

Ans. In the chapter 'The Black Aeroplane', nature plays a critical role in conveying the theme of the story. The natural elements, such as the stormy weather and the dark, ominous sky, create a tense and suspenseful atmosphere that mirrors the protagonist's inner unrest and fear. The unpredictability and power of nature serve as an analogy for the unforeseen challenges and apprehensions in life.

The mysterious black aeroplane that appears out of the storm symbolises hope and guidance, suggesting that even in the most dismaying situations, help can come from the most surprising sources. Overall, nature's description in the story emphasises the themes of uncertainty, hope and the remarkable within the ordinary.

reminder that true courage is not about boasting but about stepping up in the face of real danger.

Custard, on the other hand, charged at the pirate and ate up the whole of his body. Today's incident taught me that true bravery often lies beneath the surface, waiting for the right moment to shine.

Belinda

Supplementary

Q.45 Compare and contrast the characters of Hari Singh from 'The Thief's Story' and the Lady in Red from 'A Question of Trust', highlighting their roles and development within the textual context.

Ans. Both Hari Singh from 'The Thief's Story' by Ruskin Bond and the Lady in Red from 'A Question of Trust' by Jeffrey Archer are characters entrapped in the world of crime yet they exhibit strikingly different traits and motivations.

Hari Singh, a young, experienced thief, is endowed with deception and stealing. However, he undergoes significant change upon meeting Anil, a compassionate writer. Hari's interactions with Anil, who trusts him and offers him a chance at education and a better life, spark an inner conflict. This ultimately leads to Hari's redemption, showcasing his potential for change and a desire for a better future.

In contrast, the Lady in Red is a cosmopolitan, cunning thief, who outwits Horace Danby, a professional burglar. Unlike Hari, she remains unashamed and deceitful throughout the story. Her manipulation of Horace, under the mask of requiring help, highlights her cold, calculating nature and her commitment to a life of crime.

While both characters are thieves, Hari Singh's journey is marked by growth and the possibility of redemption, influenced by trust and kindness. The Lady in Red, however, embodies the archetype of a remorseless criminal, whose actions underline her manipulative and crooked tendencies.

Q.46 Griffin's brilliance as a man of science fades before his darker traits.

Give reasons from the text to support your answer. (Footprints Without Feet)

Ans. Griffin, the protagonist of 'Footprints without Feet' by H.G. Wells, is a brilliant scientist who

invents a method to become invisible. However, his darker side soon eclipses his scientific achievements. Instead of using his discovery for the betterment of humanity, Griffin employs his invisibility for evil purposes. He begins by looting and killing anyone who gets in his way.

His hostility is evident when he sets his landlord's house on fire and steals food and clothes from a London store.

Griffin's crimes escalate as he steals goods from a theatrical company and money from a clergyman's house to pay his bills. His actions show a complete apathy for morality and ethics, using his intellect solely for personal gain and destruction. Griffin's descent into criminality and his ruthless behaviour indicate how his darker traits overshadow his scientific brilliance, ultimately leading to his downfall.

Q.47 Unrealistic aspirations bring frustration and discontentment to Matilda's life. Elucidate in the reference of the chapter 'The Necklace'.

Ans. Matilda's unrealistic aspirations lead to profound frustration and discontentment, ultimately resulting in a life of hardship. Matilda Loisel, a middle-class woman, dreams of luxury and wealth far beyond her reach. Unhappy with her mediocre life, she constantly laments her lack of fine clothes and jewels, desiring to be part of the high society.

When her husband brings home an invitation to a ball at the Ministry, Matilda borrows a seemingly expensive necklace from her friend Madame Forestier to fit in with the affluent crowd. She enjoys a brief moment of fulfillment but loses the necklace, a mistake that plunges her and her husband into financial ruin. The couple works tirelessly for ten years to repay the debt incurred from replacing the lost necklace. She was startled to discover it was a mere imitation.

Matilda's utopian desires for a lavish lifestyle lead to her downfall, signifying had she been content with what life has given her, she would have ushered a comfortable life.

Q.48 Imagine you are Richard H. Ebright. Your alma mater has invited you to address the new batch of students in the Orientation programme. Draft a short speech that you would like to deliver on this occasion.

Dear Ms. Wells,

I recently became the caretaker of a charming otter named Mijbil. After reading your delightful poem 'How to Tell Wild Animals,' I was deeply impacted by your vivid and dexterous portrayals of various creatures. Your insights have scintillated my curiosity and admiration for the natural world.

As I endeavour to provide the best care for Mijbil, I find myself keen to learn more about otters. Your expertise in depicting animals with such precision and affection leads me to seek your guidance. Could you kindly share any knowledge or resources on the habits, behaviours and needs of otters? Any advice on how to ensure Mijbil's well-being in a domestic setting would be immensely valuable.

I hope your suggestions will support me in steering a comfortable journey with Mijbil.

Warm regards,
Maxwell

Q.42 How do the poems 'The Trees' and 'A Tiger in the Zoo' represent the cruelty of man in meddling with the natural environment?

Ans. The poems 'The Trees' by Adrienne Rich and 'A Tiger in the Zoo' by Leslie Norris poignantly highlight the cruelty of human interference in the natural environment through explicit imagery and thematic stress.

In 'The Trees,' Adrienne Rich uses the metaphor of trees trapped inside a house to symbolise nature being confined and controlled by humans. The trees' desire to break free and return to the forest represents a longing for liberation from unnatural constraints. Rich's depiction of the trees pushing against the walls and their eventual escape conveys the unnaturalness of their imprisonment and the innate cruelty in denying nature its rightful place.

Leslie Norris's 'A Tiger in the Zoo' similarly portrays the confinement of a wild animal in the zoo as an act of cruelty. The poem contrasts the tiger's life in a zoo, where it paces restlessly in a small cage, with its natural habitat in the wild, where it would roam freely. The image of the tiger's 'quiet rage' and the 'pad of velvet quiet' evoke a sense of injustice and suffering, highlighting the tiger's loss of freedom and dignity due to human interference.

Both poems emphasise the idea that human attempts to control and dominate the natural world result in harm and suffering for the environment and its inhabitants. Man must

stop attacking the environment for their selfish needs.

Q.43 "Knowledge is not a burden but a pleasure for Rajvir." Compose a character sketch of Rajvir in light of this statement from 'Tea from Assam'.

Ans. Rajvir, from Arup Kumar Datta's 'Tea from Assam', exemplifies a character who finds joy in knowledge. His willingness to visit a tea plantation, despite never having been to one before, brings out his natural curiosity and love for learning. Rajvir took the chance to accompany his friend Pranjol to Upper Assam during the summer holidays, where Pranjol's father was a manager at a tea estate.

Even before reaching Dhekiabari Tea Estate, Rajvir has already educated himself about the sprouting period of tea leaves and the optimal time for reaping the best tea. His excitement and inquisitiveness demonstrate that he is an industrious student who engages in self-study to apprehend new subjects deeply.

Rajvir's keen interest in acquiring information, coupled with his ability to observe and listen carefully, showcases his zeal that knowledge is a pleasure derived from practical experiences. Watching the vast sea of tea bushes from his train compartment, Rajvir uses both sight and sound to enrich his understanding, epitomising the notion that knowledge is a delight, not a burden.

Q.44 Suppose you are Belinda and are very much impressed by the courage shown by Custard. You felt disappointed how the other pets Ink, Blink and Mustard displayed cowardice while facing the pirate though Custard despite being mocked for his cowardice saved Belinda. Write a diary entry on how you felt in 120 words.

Ans. 23rd June, 2024

9:00 p.m.

Dear Diary,

Today was a day of acknowledgments. I am still spinning from the events that unfurled when the pirate attacked. I always thought of Custard as the coward among us, especially with Ink, Blink and Mustard constantly claiming to be very brave and bold. But when danger struck, it was Custard who represented immense courage and saved us all. His bravery was astounding and he fought the pirate with a ferocity I never imagined he possessed.

On the other hand, I was deeply disappointed by Ink, Blink and Mustard who always bragged about their bravery yet they ran away in fear when I needed them the most. It was a harsh

Ans. Dear Students,

It is an honour to return to my alma mater and speak with you today. As I stand before you, I am reminded of my journey that began in these very auditoria. My devotion to science ignited curiosity and determination which in turn shaped my path.

Remember, every great achievement starts with a single question. For me, it was the fascination with butterflies that led to groundbreaking discoveries. Embrace your interests, no matter how small they may seem and let them guide your pursuits.

Perseverance is key. There will be challenges and setbacks but each is an opportunity to learn and grow. Collaborate with your peers, seek out mentors and never stop asking questions.

Science flourishes on curiosity and endurance.

Lastly, contribute to your community. Share your knowledge and inspire others. Education is a powerful tool for change and you have the potential to make a substantial influence.

Believe in yourselves, stay curious and pursue your passions with unwavering dedication.

The future of science and discovery lies in your hands.

Thank you.

Q.49 Imagine that Bholi writes a diary entry, exploring the themes of 'Girl Child' and 'Impact of Education', in the context of her own experiences.

Write this dairy entry, as Bholi.

Ans. 24th April, 20XX 9 : 00 p.m.

Dear Diary,

Today, I find myself reflecting on how education has changed my life as a girl child in our village. Growing up, I was always reminded of my imperfections – the pockmarks on my face made me feel like I was worth less than others. People saw me as unmarriageable and it hurt deeply to be judged by something so superficial.

But then, everything shifted when my teacher saw me beyond my scars and believed in me.

Her encouragement gave me the strength to pursue education despite the taunts and whispers. Through books and lessons, I discovered a world where my worth wasn't defined by my appearance or marriageability.

Education opened my eyes to injustice, like the dowry demands that burdened families in our community. When Ramlal's family asked for a dowry, I knew it was wrong. My education gave me the courage to speak up against it, even though it meant going against tradition.

I assured my parents that I would serve them in their old age and would join the school as a teacher. I feel elated to transform myself from a 'dumb cow' to a confident woman.

Education has transformed me from a timid girl into someone who can fight for herself and others. As a girl child, education has been my greatest ally, showing me that I have a voice and the power to make a difference.

Bholi

Q.50 Based on 'The Book that Saved the Earth' by Claire Boiko, explain how jumping to conclusions had unintended consequences for the Martians and added elements of humour and satire to the play.

Ans. In 'The Book that Saved the Earth', the Martians' impulsive conclusions lead to humorous and satirical situations, highlighting the folly of misinterpreting cultural differences. The Martians, led by the Great and Mighty Think-Tank, plan to invade Earth.

However, they mistake a simple book of nursery rhymes, 'Mother Goose,' for an advanced manual of Earth's defences. This misconception showcases their lack of understanding and adds humour as they frantically try to decode absurd verses, believing them to be strategic instructions.

Think-Tank's exaggerated reactions and the Martians' absurd renditions mock the dangers of overconfidence and ignorance. Their comical fear of Earth's supposed advanced intelligence reflects how misconceptions can lead to unnecessary conflict.

The play uses this misunderstanding to criticise the failure to appreciate cultural context, ultimately conveying that open-mindedness and communication are essential for peace and harmony. The humour and satire emphasise the importance of not jumping to conclusions without proper knowledge.

of rare metals and high explosives, showcasing their misunderstanding and overestimation of human technology and intentions.

Long Answer Type Questions

Prose and Poetry

Q.36 Evaluate the ethical decisions made by the postmaster in 'A Letter to God'. Was it ethically right for the postmaster to collect money from his colleagues to help Lencho without disclosing the truth to him? Should he have been more transparent with Lencho about the source of the money? Justify your answer with reasons and possible outcomes.

Ans. The postmaster's ethical decisions in 'A Letter to God' are inconvenient. Collecting money from colleagues to help Lencho was a compassionate act, showcasing human kindness and a desire to maintain Lencho's faith. However, the post office employees can't say no to their senior. His decision seems persuasive at the same time. However, withholding the truth raises moral questions. By not revealing that the post office staff have contributed from their salary, the postmaster unintentionally eternalises Lencho's assumption of divine intervention, which led to Lencho's baseless mistrust of the postal workers.

Transparency could have enabled a broader understanding of human generosity, enriching Lencho's gratitude for community support. It might have prevented his disillusionment and anger upon receiving less than expected. Ethically, while the postmaster's intentions were good, the revelation about the source of the donation would have deepened his faith in both God and humanity. This approach aligns with ethical principles of honesty and respect, enabling a more balanced viewpoint on benevolence.

Q.37 A desire is more personal whereas a vision has broader connotations. You have been asked to present an analysis of Valli's desire and Mandela's vision and how they are respectively fulfilled. Write this presentation draft including your insights, in about 120 words, comparing the approaches of both Valli and Mandela.

You may begin like this

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

Ans. One acknowledges that both Valli and Mandela displayed remarkable qualities; however, their contexts and aspirations were considerably different. Valli, a young girl with a strong desire to travel by bus, spent her favourite pastime watching buses arrive and depart. Her careful planning and courage enabled her to embark on a solo journey, fulfilling her dream. Valli's small yet notable adventure highlights how fascination and careful preparation can lead to achieving even the simplest of dreams. Her determination to travel alone echoes her inner strength and unwavering will.

Similarly, Nelson Mandela's vision to fight apartheid and create a society free of discrimination, racism and segregation required tremendous courage, thorough planning and unwavering resolution. As the first black President of South Africa, Mandela took a solemn vow to transform his vision into reality. His relentless quest for justice and equality serves as a powerful example of how dedication and strategic effort can lead to immense changes.

Both Valli and Mandela epitomise the universal truth that with determination, passion and careful planning, any vision, big or small, can be realised, inspiring others to pursue their dreams against all odds.

Q.38 You have been chosen to address the student gathering from the nearby schools, to speak on "Overcoming Loss: Healing from Personal and Material Setbacks". Prepare the speech draft in not more than 120 words, with reference to the commonality of themes in John Benymen's.

'The Ball Poem' and 'The Sermon at Benaras'. You may begin this way. Good Morning everyone. Today, I'd like to discuss two segments of literature that offer a powerful insight into how we can learn to overcome loss.

Ans. Good morning, everyone. Today, I'd like to discuss two segments of literature that offer powerful insights into how we can learn to overcome loss.

In 'The Sermon at Benaras,' Buddha teaches us the inevitability of death and the importance of

accepting loss as a part of life. He shares the story of Kisa Gotami, a woman overwhelmed by the death of her son. Seeking a way to bring him back to life, she approaches Buddha, who asks her to find a mustard seed from a household untouched by death.

After searching, Gotami realises that no such household exists, teaching her that death is a universal experience. Buddha emphasises that grief and sorrow only terminate when we understand the transient nature of our existence and develop separation. This wisdom encourages us to find inner peace amidst personal losses.

Similarly, 'The Ball Poem' by John Berryman defines a young boy's sorrow after losing his ball, symbolising the loss of innocence and the intense realities of life. The poem conveys that loss is a part of growing up and learning to get along with the unavoidable changes that life brings. The boy learns that despite the pain, life continues and he must move forward.

To conclude, I'd like to say that both teachings remind us that healing from personal and material setbacks requires acceptance, resilience and the courage to continue our journey with newfound understanding and strength.

Thank you.

Q.39 How did the issue of 'Oxen Meadows' turn the marriage proposal sour?

Ans. The issue of 'Oxen Meadows' turned the marriage proposal sour as both Lomov and Natalya's families claimed ownership of the land. Lomov cited that the meadows belonged to him, which angered Natalya. She argued that her family possessed the land for nearly 300 years and both families were convinced they had rightful ownership. Lomov clarified that his documents proved the land was his, stating that his aunt's grandmother permitted Natalya's ancestors to use it in exchange for making bricks.

Despite this, Natalya and her father, Chubukov, insisted the land was theirs, leading to a heated argument. Chubukov told Lomov not to shout at him and Lomov threatened to take the matter to court. The argument escalated with insults being exchanged and Natalya and her father teamed up against Lomov. The intense dispute over the land made the marriage proposal hostile, causing Lomov to leave angrily.

Q.40 You have been asked to present an evaluation of the approaches of the mothers Baby Seagull and Amanda in understanding their psychology and

guiding them on how to navigate life. Write this presentation draft including your insights and comparing the approaches of both mothers.

(References: Amanda! and His First Flight)

Ans. One acknowledges that both the parents in 'His First Flight' and 'Amanda!' exemplify distinct yet impactful approaches to nurturing their children and guiding them through life's journeys.

In 'His First Flight,' Baby Seagull's mother demonstrates a strict and authoritative approach, motivating the baby Seagull to confront his fears gradually and learn through experience.

Birds learn the art of survival from their parents and that is why the mother seagull's decision not to feed her baby was reasonable and that brought him the courage to plunge for flight to satisfy his hunger. Sometimes parents have to adopt strict approaches to make them learn the lessons of life.

In contrast, Amanda's mother from 'Amanda!' embodies a more authoritative approach to parenting. She rules her daughter's life and curtails her liberty which affects her so much adversely that she visualises herself to be an orphan, or a mermaid swimming blissfully without any disturbance. She wishes to escape from her nagging mother. 'Too much of everything is bad' is the maxim in the case of Amanda's mother. Mother should deal with Amanda affectionately and gently notify her so that she can comprehend the motive behind the perpetual instructions.

These contrasting approaches highlight the diversity of maternal roles in shaping children's development. Both mothers prioritise their children's well-being and growth but effective and patient dealing steer children towards self-discovery and resilience.

Q.41 Suppose you are Maxwell, the narrator of 'Mijbil the Otter,' who wishes to keep the otter as a pet. After reading the poem 'How to Tell Wild Animals,' you decide to write a letter to Carolyn Wells to acquire more knowledge about otters, acknowledging her skilful portrayals of animals. Write a letter to Carolyn Wells in 120 words.

Ans. Bank Street
XYZ Lane
24th October, 20XX

This insight transforms her grief into enlightenment, reflecting the core Buddhist teachings.

Q.14 "Oh, what a burden, Lord, to be the father of a grown-up daughter!" Explain what this line conveys about Chubukov as a father. (The Proposal)

Ans. The line reveals Chubukov's intricate emotions as a father. It highlights his worry, concern and frustration regarding his daughter. He struggles to accept that she is grown up and finds it challenging to manage her tantrums. Moreover, he perceives her as burdensome, considering her more as a responsibility than as an independent individual.

Poetry

Q.15 Do you concur with the notion that our attitude towards a situation determines its positivity or negativity? Support your opinion using examples from Robert Frost's poem 'Dust of Snow'.

Ans. Yes, our attitude profoundly influences whether we perceive a situation positively or negatively. In 'Dust of Snow' by Robert Frost, the speaker's initial despair shifts when a crow's action of flinging snow on him when he was standing under a hemlock tree unexpectedly alters his mood.

This depicts how a change in perspective can transform a negative experience into a positive one. It accentuates the importance of attitude in shaping our renditions and responses to life's circumstances.

Q.16 How do 'fire' and 'ice' serve as both contrasting and comparable symbols in the poem 'Fire and Ice'?

Ans. In the poem 'Fire and Ice,' 'fire' and 'ice' are both different and comparable in various ways. Symbolically, 'fire' and 'ice' represent emotions that are starkly contrasted with each other. 'Fire' embodies fiery emotions such as lust, anger, prejudice, violence and cruelty, whereas 'ice' signifies the coldness of attitude caused by jealousy, indifference, selfishness and self-centeredness.

However, the poet demonstrates that despite their differences, both 'fire' and 'ice' share a common trait i.e., their intense and destructive power.

Q.17 Elaborate on the contrasts between the tiger's existence in confinement and its life in the wild, as portrayed in Leslie Norris's poem 'A Tiger in the Zoo'.

Ans. The tiger paces in its cage, symbolising confinement and frustration. It's constrained by its instincts, merely existing for human amusement. Contrarily, in the jungle, the tiger moves gracefully through the dense forest, epitomising freedom and majesty. There, it hunts and roams vast territories, fully expressing its natural behaviours and thriving in its true, dynamic habitat.

Q.18 Why are the lyrical genre and conversational style fitting for the poem 'How to Tell Wild Animals'?

Ans. Different genres suit different topics. In 'How to Tell Wild Animals', the poet employs a lyrical genre with a conversational style, directly addressing the readers.

This strategy makes the poem both musical and engaging, as it involves the reader in the dialogue, creating the impression of listening directly to the poet. This enriches the poem's appeal and accessibility.

Q.19 Evaluate how the poet uses the specific behaviours and appearances of the hyena and the crocodile to describe their differences.

Ans. The poet distinguishes the hyena and the crocodile by underscoring their distinct appearances and behaviours.

The hyena seems to smile while gobbling its prey. Conversely, the crocodile is known for its duplicitous habit of shedding tears while engulfing its victim.

These contrasting characteristics—the hyena's smile and the crocodile's deceitful tears—set them apart from each other and other creatures in the forest.

Q.20 The Ball Poem initially appears simple but it is actually quite impactful and intense. Comment upon the theme of 'The Ball Poem'.

Ans. The poem initially appears simple but is actually quite impactful and intense, delving deeply into themes of loss, suffering and transformation. The poem highlights the boy's experience of losing his ball, which symbolises a significant loss.

This event marks an evolution from youth to adulthood, as the boy gains maturity through this experience.

He begins to understand the significance of taking responsibility for the loss of materialistic possessions. Ultimately, the boy learns to deal with loss, a vital life lesson, signifying his emotional growth and strength.

Q.6 How might Anne Frank's experience with Mr. Keesing inspire her to approach future challenges with creativity and humour?

Ans. Anne Frank's experience with Mr. Keesing might inspire her to approach future challenges with creativity and humour by illustrating the power of satire and creative expression to change perceptions and diffuse tensions. Her poem about a mother duckling and a father swan with three baby ducklings not only settled a conflict but also transformed her teacher's perspective, showing her that creative solutions can have a substantial impact. This likely encouraged her to use her fantasy and sense of humour as tools for steering difficult situations and building positive relationships.

Q.7 Kitty was a trusted friend to Anne. Elaborate.

Ans. Kitty was a trusted friend to Anne, allowing her to share her thoughts and feelings without fear. It provided her a place to confide, helping her deal with loneliness. Treating the diary as a friend assigned her comfort. Writing in it felt private and safe, allowing her to express her profound feelings without worry of being judged or ridiculed.

Q.8 How did the baker's apparel exemplify its transformation over time in Goa? (A Baker from Goa)

Ans. During the Portuguese days, the baker wore a strange dress known as the 'Kabai'. This used to be a single-piece long frock reaching down to the knees. This dress was later modified and during the author's childhood days, the bakers wore shirts and three-quarter pants that were shorter than full-length ones and longer than half pants.

Q.9 Coorg has been defined as a piece of heaven by the writer. Justify.

Ans. The region is renowned for its natural beauty with lush greenery, rolling hills and dense forests, along with diverse wildlife like birds, mammals and reptiles. The rich culture and heritage are reflected in traditions, dress and historic monasteries.

The aroma of coffee from plantations fills the air, adding to the charisma of adventure sports such as trekking, camping and river rafting that entice visitors seeking a thrilling experience.

Q.10 'Tea from Assam' is a perfect travelogue. Demonstrate with suitable examples from the text.

Ans. 'Tea from Assam' can be considered a perfect travelogue through its vivid portrayals and precise exploration of the region. For instance, the text paints a rich picture of Assam's lush tea gardens, capturing the expansive greenery and the thorough process of tea cultivation.

The narrative also delves into the cultural and historical significance of tea in Assam, providing insights into the lives of the people who work in the tea estates. Besides, the inclusion of sensory details, such as the aroma of fresh tea leaves and the scenic beauty of the landscape, inundates readers with the experience, making it an engaging and informative travelogue.

Q.11 How does Maxwell justify calling the air hostess 'the very queen of her kind'?

Ans. Maxwell confided in the air hostess during the flight, describing Mij's recent behaviour. She empathetically suggested taking Mij out of the box and holding him on his knee.

This humane guidance led Maxwell to regard her as 'the very queen of her kind', acknowledging her unprecedented compassion and understanding.

Q.12 How does the chapter 'Madam Rides the Bus' characterise the bus conductor as a man of cheerful disposition? Provide supporting reasons.

Ans. The bus conductor is depicted as a man of cheerful disposition through his interactions with Valli. He is surprised but amused by the eight-year-old travelling alone and greets her warmly, calling her 'Madam' to concede her confidence. Throughout the journey, he engages her with light-hearted conversation, assuring she remains in good spirits.

He exhibits kindness by keeping an eye on her safety, interceding when strangers approach and offering to buy her a cold drink when she does not have enough money.

His helpful and cheerful nature is evident in his thoughtful and caring efforts towards Valli.

Q.13 Kisa Gotami attained enlightenment after her interaction with the Buddha. Justify this statement in light of 'The Sermon at Benares'.

Ans. In 'The Sermon at Benares,' Kisa Gotami's enlightenment stems from her interaction with the Buddha. Grieving her son's death, she seeks a remedy. The Buddha instructs her to find a mustard seed from a household untouched by death. Realising every family experiences death, she understands the universality of suffering and impermanence.

Q.21 Excessive nagging makes the children defiant. Elucidate your answer in reference to the poem *Amandal*.

Ans. In the poem 'Amandal', excessive nagging leads to defiance and escapism in the child. Amanda is constantly criticised and instructed by her mother, causing her to retreat into imaginative worlds. She envisions herself as a mermaid in a calm, emerald sea, as an orphan wandering freely and to be Rapunzel who would never enable any prince to liberate her.

This nagging suppresses her spirit, making her yearn for independence and escape, demonstrating the negative impact of excessive parental control on a child's well-being.

Q.22 'The Trees' by Adrienne Rich is a perfect allegory. Expound.

Ans. Adrienne Rich's 'The Trees' is an allegory with two levels. On the surface, it deals with deforestation and the ecological imbalance caused by human interference with nature. On a deeper level, it symbolises women's fight for freedom from patriarchal oppression.

The trees struggle for freedom represents women's efforts to break free from societal norms and limitations and attain equality in all spheres of life.

Q.23 How effectively does the poet employ the comparison of fog to a cat and what are the implications of this metaphor?

Ans. The poet's comparison of fog to a cat is highly effective. This metaphor suggests qualities such as quiet and stealthy movement, as well as the fog's ability to appear and disappear much like a cat.

Fog comes down quietly, much like a cat moving noiselessly on its little, padded feet. This comparison enriches the imagery, allowing readers to visualise the fog's gentle, creeping presence and enhancing the poem's atmospheric and evocative qualities.

Q.24 Ogden Nash uses vivid imagery in 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon' to appeal to the senses. Elaborate on the imagery used for the Pirate.

Ans. In 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon,' Ogden Nash uses vivid imagery to portray the Pirate, appealing strongly to the senses. The Pirate is described with a pistol in each hand, firing bullets and a cutlass gripped between his teeth, creating a menacing visual. He has a black beard and a wooden leg, enriching his wild and fearsome appearance.

The Pirate's actions, such as drinking wine and staring at the dragon, indicate his offensive intentions and disgraceful nature, emphasising his role as an enemy up to no good.

Q.25 Can someone genuinely love a person based solely on their inner beauty, disregarding physical appearance? Justify with reference to the theme of Yeats' poem 'For Anne Gregory'.

Ans. Yeats' poem 'For Anne Gregory' explores how physical appearance influences attraction but also suggests valuing inner qualities like wit and intelligence. While appearance initially affects perception, the poem suggests that true love can transcend physicality, emphasising the significance of inner beauty and character in forming meaningful relationships.

Supplementary

Q.26 Does the case of Mrs. Pumphrey, who unduly pampers Tricki, exemplify the truth behind the statement 'too much of anything is bad'? Discuss based on James Herriot's chapter 'A Triumph of Surgery'.

Ans. In James Herriot's chapter 'A Triumph of Surgery', Mrs. Pumphrey's excessive pampering of her dog, Tricki, is depicted vividly. She relinquishes Tricki with lavish meals, treats and constant attention, leading to the dog becoming overweight and unhealthy. This disproportionate pampering ultimately harms Tricki's well-being, requiring veterinary intervention to address the health issues caused by Mrs. Pumphrey's overindulgence. The chapter serves as a cautionary tale, demonstrating how excessive care and luxury can have negative outcomes, even for beloved pets.

Q.27 What does Mr. Herriot mean by 'happy period' for himself and his partners? Explain. (A Triumph of Surgery)

Ans. Tricki falls seriously ill, causing Mrs. Pumphrey great concern. She admits him to Mr. Herriot's clinic for treatment. Mr. Herriot and his friends enjoy the lavish food Mrs. Pumphrey sends for Tricki, including eggs and a bottle of wine, reflecting her excessive pampering of the dog despite his health issues.

This episode emphasises the consequences of surplus and highlights Mrs. Pumphrey's genuine but misguided admiration for Tricki which turns to be lucky for the doctor.

Q.28 The rain changed Hari Singh's perspective, prompting him to return to his owner, Anil and appreciate the trust placed in him.
(The Thief's Story)

Ans. The rain changed Hari Singh's perspective, compelling him to return to his owner, Anil and deeply appreciate the trust conferred upon him. The rain symbolises a cleansing and transformative force, washing away doubt and strengthening the bond between Hari Singh and Anil.

This contrasts with the thief's deceptive actions, emphasising Hari Singh's loyalty and the purity of his relationship with Anil.

Q.29 Despite his unusual appearance, Ausable's presence of mind helped him get rid of Max.
(The Midnight Visitor)

Ans. Appearances can be deceptive, as depicted by Ausable in the story. Despite not fitting the typical description of a secret agent — he was fat and sloppy — Ausable's fertile mind created stories and situations that unnerved Max, showcasing his intelligence and strategic thinking.

Eventually, Ausable's quick thinking and presence of mind saved Max's life in a critical moment, proving that outward appearances can mask true capabilities and competence.

Q.30 "Horace Danby is a thief who was cheated by another thief." Justify.
(A Question of Trust)

Ans. Horace Danby and the lady had both planned to rob the same house. However, Danby fell victim to a clever delusion by the lady, who masked herself as the wife of the homeowner. Hence, while the lady successfully performed the robbery and circumvented capture, Danby was arrested by the police. His trust in the disguised woman ultimately led to his arrest, emphasising the effects of misplaced trust and deception in the story.

Q.31 How did the visit to Drury Lane prove to be a blessing for Griffin?

Ans. Griffin's visit to Drury Lane proved to be a blessing as it provided him with essential materials to protect himself from the chilling weather. He acquired bandages to wrap around his forehead, dark glasses, a false nose, big bushy side whiskers and a large hat, allowing him to disguise his invisibility.

Besides, he robbed the shopkeeper of all the money he had, further benefitting his escape and survival.

Q.32 Justify how Ebright's mother played an important part in his becoming a scientist. (The Making of a Scientist)

Ans. His mother was his only companion. She took him on trips to encourage his inquisitiveness, bought him a microscope and other equipment and gave him problems to solve. She also got him the book 'The Travels of Monarch X' and wrote to Dr. Urquhart to seek guidance for her son. Her support and encouragement played a vital role in his development.

Q.33 Mr. Loisel was a loving, caring and sacrificing husband. Justify in the light of the chapter 'The Necklace'.

Ans. Mr. Loisel was a loving, caring and sacrificing husband, as demonstrated in the chapter 'The Necklace'. He selflessly gives up his savings to buy his wife a beautiful dress for the ball, despite her initial dissatisfaction. When she loses the borrowed necklace, he frantically searches for it without pointing out Matilda's negligence.

He goes to great lengths to replace, working tirelessly for ten years to pay off the debt. His actions consistently show his deep love and commitment to his wife's happiness and well-being.

Q.34 "What a shameful girl! We all thought she was a harmless dumb cow." This statement highlights the patriarchal norms that demand a girl to be on muted acquiescence.

Ans. The statement brings out the patriarchal norms that expect girls to remain silent and submissive. Bholi defies these expectations when she boldly speaks out against her arranged marriage to a greedy and unscrupulous man. She was criticised for her defiance.

Her act of calling off the marriage challenges the societal norms that demand muted submission from women, highlighting the courage it takes to break free from oppressive traditions.

Q.35 How did Think-Tank interpret the following nursery rhyme?

"How does your garden grow with cockle shells and silver bells"? (The Book that Saved the Earth)

Ans. The Martians misinterpret an innocent nursery rhyme as a threat, leading them to believe that Earthlings are highly advanced. They think that Earthlings possess the capability to grow crops