



SUMMATIVE - II QUESTION BANK -2022-23

GRADE 8

SUBJECT – ENGLISH

Syllabus – Honeydew – Unit – 7,8,9,10. (SR) – Ch – 7,8,9,10

Grammar – Ch – 15,16,17,18,19,20,21,23,24,25. Comprehension,

Writing skill(Diary Writing, Poster making, Notice, Letter, Dialogue, Advertisement)

SECTION A – READING

Q1. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow:

PASSAGE 1

India's growing fascination for vehicles and failure to develop roads has increased air pollution in most cities, the country's pollution watchdog has revealed. In the past two decades, the carrying capacity of roads increased by less than 2.5 per cent, whereas the number of vehicles grew at an annual rate of over 10 per cent. In 2008, in India, 12 million vehicles were plying on the 3.5 million km road network. For people, its visible impact has increased congestion on roads, but what one didn't see was the higher air pollution.

The high concentration of pollutants like carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons cause lung cancer and asthma, besides routine breathing problems. The sudden jump in air pollution is a recent phenomenon, with the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) finding that half of the two-wheelers and cars running on Indian roads have been registered in the last five to seven years.

The growth phenomenon in case of heavy vehicles has been less impressive.

The new vehicles, however, are not the sole cause of air pollution. The CPCB said that vehicles older than 10 years caused 60 per cent of vehicular air pollution. And the reason is poor maintenance and no norms in India for the expiry of a vehicle, especially the private ones.

Adulteration of fuel has been stated as another reason for high vehicular pollution.

So far, ironically because of a lower level of income thresholds, the Indian market has favoured small cars and two-wheelers. As small engines use less fuel, the average float-wise fuel consumption is expected to be low. But already, with rising income levels, there is a steady shift towards bigger cars that use more fuel. Taking their place are the bigger cars in compact, mid-size and high-end segments. Therefore, standards can make a significant difference in India.

(1) Answer these questions:

- What is the major cause of air pollution in India?
- What has increased more than the carrying capacity of roads?
- What causes lung cancer and asthma?
- Why do Indians favour small cars and two-wheelers?

(2) Choose the correct option:

- Which word in the passage means 'mixing with inferior material'? (Para 3)
(i) impurity (ii) adulteration (iii) phenomenon (iv) purification
- Which word in the passage means 'collection'? (para 2)
(i) concentration (ii) phenomenon (iii) pollution (iv) growth
- Find the word opposite in meaning to 'success'? (para 1)
(i) obsession (ii) failure (iii) network (iv) revealed
- Find the word opposite in meaning to 'production'? (Para 4)
(i) compact (ii) threshold (iii) difference (iv) consumption

Answers :

- (1) (a) The major cause of air pollution in India is a spurt in vehicles accompanied by the failure to develop roads.
(b) The number of vehicles has increased at a higher percentage than the carrying capacity of roads.
(c) High concentration of pollutants like carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons cause lung cancer and asthma.
(d) Indians favour small cars and two-wheelers typically due to a lower level of income thresholds.
- (2) (a) (ii) adulteration (b) (i) concentration
(c) (ii) failure (d) (iv) consumption

PASSAGE 2

How can you best improve your English depends on where you live, and particularly on, whether or not you live in an English speaking community. If you hear English spoken every day and mix freely with English speaking people, that is, on the whole, an advantage. On the other hand, it is often confusing to have the whole language poured over you at once. Ideally, a step-by-step course should accompany or lead up to this experience. It will also help a great deal if you can easily get the sort of English books in which you are interested.

To read a lot is essential. It is stupid not to venture outside the examination 'set books' or the textbooks you have chosen for intensive study. Read as many books in English as you can, not as study but for pleasure. Do not choose the most difficult books you find with the idea of listing and learning as many new words as possible. Choose what is likely to interest you and be sure in advance that it is not too hard. You should not have to be constantly looking up new words in the dictionary, for that deadens interest and checks real learning. Look up a word here and there but as a general policy try to push ahead, guessing what words mean from the context. It is extensive and not intensive reading that normally helps you to get interested in extra reading and thereby improve your English. You should enjoy the feeling which extensive reading gives of having some command of the language. As you read, you will become more and more familiar with words and sentence patterns you already know; understanding them better and better as you meet them in more and more contexts, some of which may differ only slightly from others.

Answer the following questions briefly:

- (i) When can you learn English faster?
(ii) What does the author recommend in learning English?
(iii) What does the author recommend for improving English?
(iv) How can reading help us to learn English?
(v) Learning and improving English depend on which factors?
(vi) What is essential to learn English?
(vii) What precaution should you take while choosing a book to read?
(viii) Which type of reading can help you?

Answers:-

- (i) If we live in an English speaking community.
(ii) Step-by-step method.
(iii) Extensive reading and not intensive reading.
(iv) Guessed from the context.
(v) English speaking environment or community.
(vi) To read a lot of books.
(vii) We should choose a book of our interest, we should read outside the examination set books and shouldn't choose most difficult books.

(viii) Extensive reading can help us.

PASSAGE 3

*It pains her to see
Animals suffering and hurt
She carries a fur purse
To match her leather skirt
She wastes paper
She has the guts
But Oh! How she hates
Trees being cut
Child Labour
She condemns vehemently
Why is then her little domestic maid
Never treated gently?
Cruelty to animals
Makes her go boo- hoo
Her favourite outings are
To the circus and the zoo
Looking at her one make the sigh
Too please others she will lie
I hope someday she will think
And realize she's just
A hypocrite, a stink!*

I. Choose the most appropriate option

- The tone of the poem is
(A) painful (B) humorous (C) gentle (D) **sarcastic/taunting**
- Feeling pained to see animals hurt and is contradictory behaviour.
(A) carrying things (B) **using a fur purse and leather skirt**
(C) having pets (D) seeing their sufferings
- Though she hates cutting of trees, she :
(A) has the guts (B) cuts them down
(C) **wastes paper** (D) Stops cutting of trees
- It is a paradox that she does not treat her little maid gently yet
(A) employs her (B) **condemns child labour**
(C) scolds the girl (D) pays her well
- She enjoys going to circus and zoo in spite of the fact that she is against:
(A) child labour (B) wastage of paper
(C) cutting of trees (D) **cruelty to animals**
- She is a hypocrite because of she:
(A) lies to please others (B) **is not what she pretends to be**
(C) thinks that she is always right (D) is what she says
- The word 'stink' here means
(A) **bad smell** (B) severe (C) dishonest (D) trouble

PASSAGE 4

*My parents kept me from children who were rough
And who threw words like stones and who wore torn clothes.
Their thighs showed through rags. They ran in the street
And climbed cliffs and stripped by the country streams.
I feared more than tigers their muscles like iron
And their jerking hands and their knees tight on my arms.
I feared the salt coarse pointing of those boys*

*Who copied my lisp behind me on the road.
They were lithe, they sprang out behind hedges
Like dogs to bark at our world. They threw mud
And I looked another way, pretending to smile,
I longed to forgive them, yet they never smiled.*

1. Complete the following sentences briefly :

- (a) The children are called rough children because _____ .
- (b) 'They ran in the streets and climbed ...' indicates _____ .
- (c) 'Their muscles like iron' is an example of _____ .
- (d) The boys copied _____ .
- (e) To irritate the narrator, they _____ .
- (f) The line/sentence which shows that the narrator wished to befriend the rough children is _____ .

2. Find words from the lines 6-10 which mean the same as :

- (a) failed to use the sound/s/and/z/correctly
- (b) bending/twisting easily

SECTION B – WRITING

Q2. Write a letter to the editor of 'The Times of India' complaining about the nuisance created by the use of loudspeakers. You are Priyanshu Sharma, a resident of Sector 15, Vasundhara Enclave, New Delhi.

Sector 15,
Vasundhara Enclave
New Delhi – 110096

18th October, 2022

The Editor
The Times of India
New Delhi

Subject - Regarding the indiscriminate use of loudspeakers

Dear Sir,

I would like to draw the kind attention of the concerned authorities towards the indiscriminate use of loudspeakers through the columns of your esteemed newspaper.

Now-a-days, the use of loudspeakers at religious places, political gatherings, marriages etc has become a very common sight. The organisers of these events do not bother to turn off the loudspeakers after the stipulated time. In a lot of cases, the use of loudspeakers continues till late in the night. This creates a lot of nuisance and disturbance for a lot of people especially students and senior citizens.

I would want the authorities to look into this matter and put stricter rules in place. They must ensure that the use of loudspeakers does not continue after the stipulated time is over. Their efforts in this regard would be much appreciated by one and all.

Yours truly

(Sign)

Priyanshu Sharma

Q3. A friend of yours loves to eat junk food Write a conversation that you have with him/her, giving your own views about the issue:

Myself : Hi Sanjay ! Eating a burger as usual ...? Whenever I see you, you are either eating pizzas or having soft drinks or busy stuffing yourself at a chaat stall.

Sanjay : Well, I like my food to be tasty .

Myself : Tasty is all right. But what about the health aspects?

Sanjay : Who cares about health ? I never fall sick, do I ?

Myself : That's what you are saying now . But all the food you are eating is actually high in calorie Content . It is bad for your stomach . You are making junk food a habit. You will suffer in later Years .

Sanjay : Then what do you recommend to eat ?

Myself : Have green salad or plate of idlis. They are healthier. Junk food slowly erodes the lining of Your stomach . You will lose your stamina and have all kinds of stomach – related diseases. Probably ulcer, too!

Sanjay : Well , let's see , I'll try to change my food habits .

Myself : You'd better , if you want to live a long and healthy life .

Q4. On your way to school today, you found a boy washing the utensils in a tea shop. You felt bad for him. Write the incident in your diary in about 80-100 words.

10th October, 2022

Friday

8:30 pm

Dear Diary

Today I saw a very small boy in a teashop. He must be of 11 or 12 years old. He was washing utensils and looked tired and sad. His owner kept giving him utensils one after another. He was washing them. I thought he should also be like me, studying in a school. Why does he have to work at this age? I could not understand. As soon as I reached home I asked mummy about him. She said he may not have anyone at home earning for their living. Mummy also told me that it is illegal to take work from children as it is banned under Child Labour Act. I want him to go to school and study like me and my friends.

Amit

Q5. You are Ashok/ Janvi of Siliguri. You have decided to give your well-furnished flat on rent. Draft an advertisement in not more than 50 -80 words to be published in the classified columns of Times of India. Give all the necessary details.

TO LET

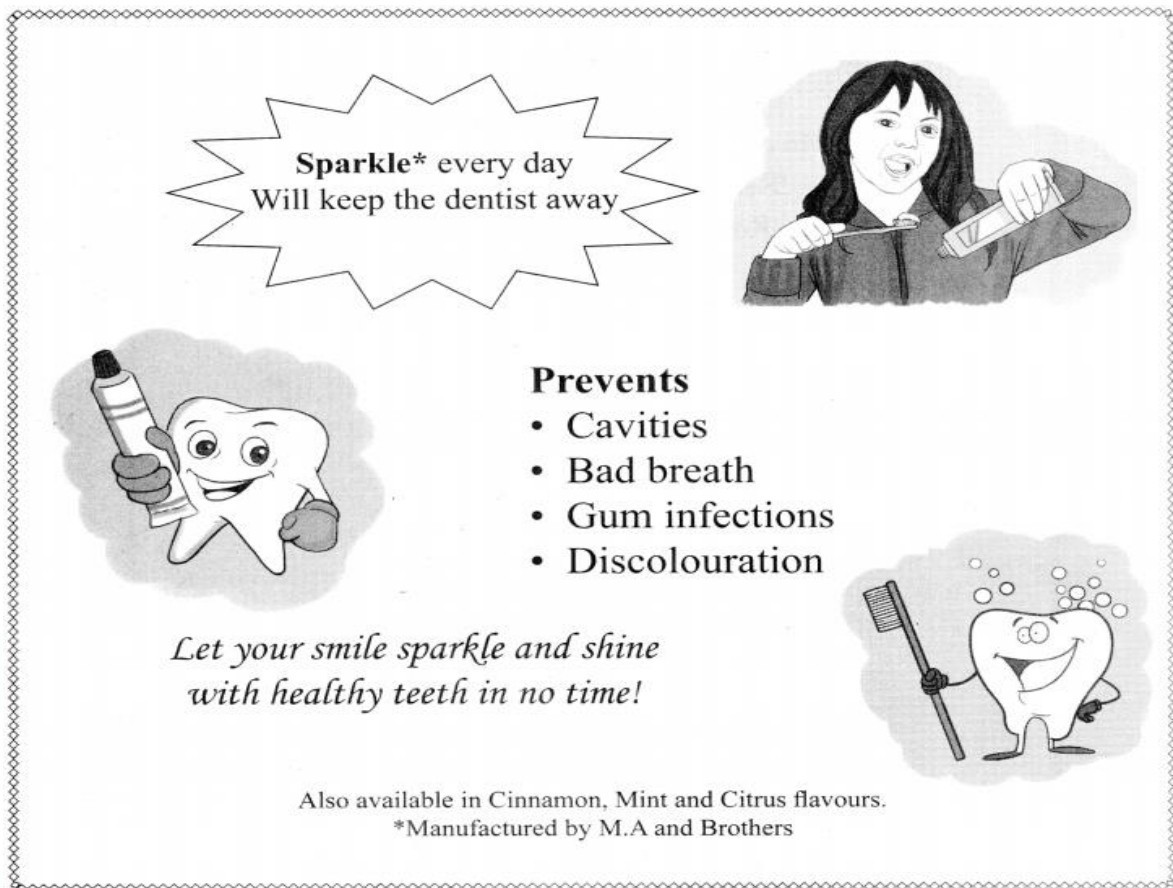
A fully-furnished 3BHK flat on 2nd floor with all amenities and parking space is available on rent at 12, M.G Road, Siliguri. Marble flooring, modular kitchen, 24×7 water and electricity supply, round the clock security and lift facility available. Rent ₹25,000/- per month. Small family preferred. For details contact

Janvi Apte

Contact Number- 983709678

E-mail Id- Janvi@gmail.com

Q6. You are working for an advertising agency. Draft an attractive advertisement for a company which is launching a new toothpaste. (Word limit: 50 words)



Sparkle* every day
Will keep the dentist away

Prevents

- Cavities
- Bad breath
- Gum infections
- Discolouration

*Let your smile sparkle and shine
with healthy teeth in no time!*

Also available in Cinnamon, Mint and Citrus flavours.
*Manufactured by M.A and Brothers

SECTION C – GRAMMAR

Q7. Exercises from Grammar Gear to be practiced.

SECTION D – LITERATURE

Q8. Word Meanings

1. Buoyant - Intensely Active And Vibrant
2. Torso - Upper Part Of The Body
3. Incandescence - Inner Glow Or Light
4. Claustrophobic - Very Small And Suffocating
5. Unstrung- To Remove The String
6. Gleefully - Very Happily
7. Ambushed - had a surprise meeting
8. Rime - Frost
9. Durst - Dared
10. Bechance - Happen/Chance To Happen
11. Sojourn - Stay
12. Radiance - Glow
13. Melancholy= Very sad
14. Blankets = Covers
15. Imprecations = Curses
16. Drumming = Falling noisily
17. Disconsolately = Unhappily

18. Ravine Valley
19. Ceasing – To come to an end, stop
20. Weed – A plant considered undesirable
21. Mown – (of grass or a crop) cut down with a machine
22. Mead – meadow
23. Spectator- onlooker; watcher
24. Enormous- very big
25. Gigantic- immense
26. Clustering- gathering
27. Benign- kind, gentle
28. Idle talk- foolish or irrelevant talk
29. Pensive- thoughtful
30. Labour- work
31. Remarkable- worthy of attention; extraordinary
32. Pardonable- able to be forgiven; excusable
33. Beheld- saw
34. Renowned- famous
35. Banquet- feast
36. Obscure - Not well known
37. Unawares - Unknowingly
38. Customary toil - Usual work
39. Hospitably - (here) gently, kindly
40. Custom - Habit
41. Sage - Wise man
42. Diffused - Spread all around
43. Self-Possessed - Calm and Confident
44. Endeavoured- Tried
45. Flatter - Make(Her) Happy
46. Treacherous – Dangerous
47. Bog – Wet or spongy ground
48. Rattled on - Went on
49. Hesitant –Haltingly
50. Bustled – Entered
51. Delusion - False impression or belief
52. Uncanny – Unusual / unnatural
53. Straying -Moving
54. Clamour – Loud noise
55. Blabbering – Talking confusedly
56. Prestige – Respect
57. Persuasion – Coaxing
58. Assault : Attack
59. Gobbled : Eaten quickly
60. Summoned – called
61. Virtuous – Good and noble
62. Racket – uproar
63. Treasury – Wealth
64. Tete-a-tete - Private meeting
65. Eccentric - Unusual
66. Recedes - Goes back
67. Nebulous - Hazy
68. Smudges - Spots, Marks
69. Meticulous - Careful

70. Rendezvous – Meeting place
71. Hangers-on – people in a meeting
72. Taboo – Something not permitted for social reasons
73. Correlations – Connections
74. Lethargy – Laziness
75. Annihilation – Total destruction

Q9. Answer in short

1. Guess the first question put to the scientist by the writer.

Ans. The first question that the writer asked Stephen Hawking was that how he managed to so brave.

2. Stephen Hawking said, “I’ve had no choice.” Does the writer think there was a choice? What was it?

Ans. The writer feels that there was a choice and Hawking was a living example of this choice. Hawking had refused to live a boring and unexciting life, he was on the contrary living a creative life. That was choice in itself.

3. “I could feel his anguish. “What could be the anguish?

Ans. The anguish was that his pale fingers and eyes were frustrated in exhaustion. He could not express himself freely though ideas were floating in his mind.

4. What endeared the scientist to the writer so that he said he was looking at one of the most beautiful men in the world?

Ans. The one-way smile of Stephen Hawking and the fact that he was not getting suppressed under the weight of his disintegrated heavy body endeared the scientist to the writer.

5. What is the scientist’s message for the disabled?

Ans. The scientist’s message for the disabled is that they should do what they are good at. It is foolish to try to copy the normal people.

6. The writer expresses his great gratitude to Stephen Hawking. What is the gratitude for?

Ans. For the writer, Stephen Hawking had been an inspiration. This meeting with Hawking further inspire him.

7. What time of the day did the poet set out on his journey?

Ans. The poet set out for his journey towards evening. The word ‘starlight’ proves so.

8. How far was Lyonesse?

Ans. Lyonesse was a hundred miles away.

9. What change did the people notice in the poet?

Ans. There was a unique radiance on the poet’s face and a certain brightness in his eyes.

10. Where had the poet gone?

Ans. The poet had gone to visit a parish, to supervise the restoration of a church.

11. Why is the author not able to see Bijju?

Ans. The author was unable to see Bijju because of monsoon mist.

12. What are the two ways in which the hills appear to change when the mist comes up?

Ans. The mist climbs up the hill and conceals it. It also blankets the mist in silence.

13. When does the monsoon season begin and when does it end? How do you prepare to face the monsoon?

Ans. The monsoon season begins in the month of June and ends by the time August comes to an end. One prepares for the season by arranging umbrellas and raincoats.

14. Which hill-station does the author describe in this diary entry?

Ans. The author was sharing details about Musoorie.

15. Where do the snakes and rodents take shelter? Why?

Ans. The snakes and rodents that had flooded out of their holes because of rain water take shelter in the roofs, attics and godowns.

16. What did the author receive in the mail?

Ans. The author received a cheque of small amount in his mail.

17. Why did the grandmother ask the children not to kill the chuchundar?

Ans. The grandmother asks the children not to kill the children because she believed that the 'chuchundars' brought luck and money.

18. What is the significance of cobra lily in relation to the monsoon season, its beginning and end?

Ans. The popping up of cobra lily is an indication that the monsoons have arrived. As the seeds of cobra lily turn red, it signifies the end of the season.

19. 'The poetry of earth' is not made of words. What is it made of, as suggested in the poem?

Ans. The poetry of the earth is made of various sounds. It is made from the chirping of birds in trees, and the sound of a grasshopper. Without a long pause, they sing joyfully.

20. Find in the poem lines that match the following.

(i) The grasshopper's happiness never comes to an end.

Ans. "He has never done with his delights".

(ii) The cricket's song has warmth that never decreases.

Ans. "The cricket's song, in warmth increasing ever."

21. The poetry of earth continues round the year through a cycle of two seasons. Mention each with its representative voice.

Ans. The two seasons that seem to create a continuous natural cycle are summer and winter. The grasshopper's song is a representative voice of the summer and the cricket's song is a representative voice of the winter.

22. Which words or phrases suggest a sense of relief from the heat of summer in stanza 1?

Ans. 'Cooling trees' and 'pleasant weeds' offer a sense of relief from the heat of summer in stanza 1.

23. (i) What was the Great Stone Face?

Ans. The Great Stone Face was a work of nature, formed on the perpendicular side of a mountain by some immense rocks, which had been thrown together so that, when viewed at a proper distance, they resembled the features of a human face.

(ii) What did Young Ernest wish when he gazed at it?

Ans. Young Ernest wished that the stone face could speak. He wished to love the man dearly whoever resembled that face.

24. What was the story attributed to the Stone Face?

Ans. The story attributed to the Stone Face was that someday a child with the likeness of that face would be born. He would become the greatest and noblest person of his age.

25. What gave the people of the valley the idea that the prophecy was about to come true for the first time?

Ans. When Gathergold, a rich, wealthy and sharp businessman decided to return to his native village, people think that the old prophecy was coming true. It was believed that Gathergold was both rich and noble and therefore in h's face some people began to see the Great Stone Face.

26. How was Ernest different from others in the valley?

Ans. Ernest had become famous and his popularity was known to people beyond the valley. People from distant lands came to meet him and talk to him. He was now a wise man with many a wise thoughts to stone.

27. Why did Ernest think that the poet was like the Stone Face?

Ans. The poet had glorified the Great Stone Face in his poem. Also the poet was quite popular. On reading the poet's works and his great thoughts, Ernest felt that the poet must be the much- awaited likeness of the Great Stone Face.

28. Who, by common consent, turned out to be like the Great Stone Face?

Ans. Ernest, by common consent, turned out to be like the Great Stone Face.

29. What did the poet himself say about his thought and poems?

Ans. The poet confessed that he was not worthy to be compared with the Stone Face. His actions did not match with his thoughts.

30. Why had Framton Nuttel come to the “rural retreat”?

Ans- Framton Nuttel had come to the “rural retreat” to undergo a nerve cure.

31. Why had his sister given him letters of introduction to people living there

Ans. His sister had given him letters of introduction to people living there as he did not know anyone there.

32. What was the girl's explanation for his lightning exit?

Ans -The girl explained that Framton was scared of dogs, as he had mentioned in the conversation they had and therefore, he rushed out seeing the dog coming.

33. Why didn't he pay the school fees on the day he brought money to school?

Ans: He did not pay the school fees on the day he brought money to school because Master Ghulam Mohammed (the teacher who collected the fees) was on leave, and it would be collected the next day.

34. (i) What were the coins ‘saying’ to him?

(ii) Do you think they were misleading him?

Answer: (i) The coins in the boy's pocket urged him to buy hot and fresh jalebis.

(ii) Yes, they were misleading him. This is because the money was meant for his school fees and fund.

35. (i) Why didn't he eat all the jalebis he had bought?

(ii) What did he do with the remaining Jalebis?

Ans: (i) He had bought jalebis for one rupee. But he couldn't eat all of them because of their quantity.

(ii) He distributed the remaining jalebis among the boys from the neighbourhood.

36. “The fear was killing me.” What was the fear?

Ans: The fear was of getting caught and his parents finding out that he had eaten so many *jalebis*. He burped with every breath. With every burp, there was the danger of bringing out a *jalebi* or two. This fear was killing him.

37. “Children’s stomachs are like digestion machines.” What do you understand by that? Do you agree?

Ans: This means that children have an active digestive system as they perform physical activity like walking and playing games every day. The boy had popped in so many jalebis and felt his digestive system would digest it by morning.

38. How did he plan to pay the fees the next day?

Ans. He planned to pay the fees the next day with the previous months scholarship that he was to receive next day.

39. When it is time to pay the fees, what does he do? How is he disobeying the elders by doing so?

Ans: When the time draws near to pay the fees, he tucked the bag under his arm and slips out of the school. He had disobeyed his elders by crossing the railway track.

40. What was the consequence of buying jalebis with the fees money?

Ans: As a result of spending his fees money on jalebis, he had to be absent from school for the first time in his life.

41. He offers to play a game with Allah Miyan. What is the game?

Ans: The game was that he would go up to the signal, touch it and return. In the meantime, God should secretly put four rupees under a big rock. Once he lifts it, he should be able to find the four rupees underneath the rock.

42. Did he get four rupees by playing the game? What did he get to see under the rock?

Ans: No, he did not get any money under the rock by playing the game. Instead, when he lifted the rock a big hairy worm got up and curling, and twisting wriggled towards him.

43. Why does Indrani Debi dislike Duttada’s “hobnobbing” with Dibya?

Ans. Indrani Debi saw the eight-inch long telescope as a designing woman who had ensnared her husband. Moreover, Duttada spent long nights star-gazing with Dibya, the telescope. Thus, Indrani Debi did not like Duttada’s “hobnobbing” with Dibya.

44. She is complaining and smiling. Why is she smiling?

Ans: She complains that Dibya has cast a spell on her husband. But she could not help smiling at his childlike behaviour. He did not bother to close the door and he forgot to put on his sweater.

45. (i) What was Duttada’s secret ambition?

(ii) What did he do to achieve it?

Ans: (i) Duttada’s secret ambition was to buy a good telescope and to have enough of spare time to watch the stars.

(ii) He waited for his retirement. After retirement he got sufficient funds. Then he bought a telescope and he started gazing at the stars without caring for his wife and life.

46. Why does Duttada say “I almost wish I had not discovered this comet”.

Ans: Duttada says “I almost wish I had not discovered this Comet” because he was an introvert and the discovery of the comet brought him unwelcome publicity. There were numerous receptions and functions to attend.

47. Why is his wife unhappy about the discovery?

Ans: The discovery of the new comet made Duttada’s wife unhappy. She was superstitious. She thought that the discovery would bring calamities on the family as well as on the earth.

48. How did Sir John get hold of James’ original manuscript?

Ans: James’ original manuscript was to be published in ‘Nature’. Sir John got hold of it as the editor of ‘Nature’ was his friend.

49. What is the important point the paper makes?

Ans: The paper makes the important point that Duttada’s comet would collide with the earth.

50. Why does Sir John say that James’ paper should not be published?

Ans: Sir John says that James’ paper should not be published because it would cause panic in the world if that dreadful news leaked out.

51. What do the two men finally decide to do?

Ans: The two men finally decide to organize an important secret conference of international experts to chalk out a plan to avert this impending calamity.

52. “I am not buying any Christmas presents till December 15”. What did Sir John mean by that?

Ans: Sir John meant that he was not very sure that they would succeed in their operation. December 15 was the date when if the experiment failed, the comet would hit the earth.

53. What is Duttada expected to do on his return from London?

Ans: Duttada on the return was expected to take part in a Shanti yajna to pacify evil spirit behind the comet.

54. What is his reaction to the proposal?

Ans: Duttada was very angry. He called it just a silly superstition to think that comets have ill-effects.

55. (i) What does “Project Light Brigade’ refer to?

Ans: “Project Light Brigade’ refers to the plan to divert the comet from its path. The plan was to launch a spacecraft and explode the nuclear device near the comet.

(ii) What does Sir John say about the Project in his letter to Duttada in October?

Ans: The charge of the Light Brigade has begun. Let us hope for the best which meant that the spacecraft had been launched on time.

56. Did Sir John Buy Christmas present on December 15? How did Duttada get to know about it?

Ans: Duttada got to know from the letter that Sir John had bought Christmas presents on Dec. 15. It indicated that the Project Light Brigade was successful.

57. Why, according to Indrani Debi, had the comet not been disastrous? Do you agree with her?

Ans. Indrani Debi thought that Comet Dutta could not harm the earth because of the Yajna performed at their house. No, the *yajna* had no impact upon the comet. The project undertaken by the scientists prevented the comet from colliding with the earth, thereby saving earth and all its inhabitants from destruction.

Answer in Detail

1. (i) Did the prospect of meeting Stephen Hawking make the writer nervous? If so, why?

Ans. The author was both excited and nervous at the prospect of meeting Stephen Hawking. He had to meet him, for Hawking was a genius of his times. At the same time, the author was doubtful if he would be allowed to meet Hawking or no. Also, he did not know what all to ask him and how.

(ii) Did he at the same time feel very excited? If so, why?

Ans. The author got extremely excited when Hawking's assistant gave him an appointment to meet Hawking, that too for half an hour.

2. (i) If 'the lantern' is the man, what would its walls' be?

(ii) What is housed within the thin walls?

(iii) What general conclusion does the writer draw from this comparison?

Ans. (i) The wall would be the body of the scientist which has been reduced to nothingness.

(ii) The inner glow of the man is housed within the thin walls or the thin body.

(iii) The author realises that ultimately it is not the body but the soul that is significant.

3. Why does the writer refer to the guitar incident? Which idea does it support?

Ans. The writer had spent a couple of years learning to play a Spanish guitar, a guitar that was much larger than its size. It supports the idea that disabled Olympics is an utter waste of time. The writer had forced himself to do what normal people around him had been trying to do.

4. What were the changes in the poet in his journey to Lyonesse?

Ans. After visiting the place the poet became happy and glad. This journey had changed his life completely. His heart was filled with unfathomable joy and there was a reflection of Heavenly bliss in his eyes. Such gifts were totally unexpected to the poet.

5. 'Although tin roofs are given to springing unaccountable leaks, there is a feeling of being untouched by and yet in touch with, the rain.'

(i) Why has the writer used the word, 'springing'?

Ans. The author uses the word 'springing' to suggest that the roof tins begin to leak without giving any warning.

(ii) How is the writer untouched by the rain?

Ans. The writer is literally untouched by the rain because he is inside the room and that protects him from the same.

(iii) How is the writer in touch with the rain at the same time?

Ans. The writer hears the loud sounds produced by the rain falling on the tin roof. Also, the leaks in the tin roof make the rain water enter the room like a distant shower.

6. Mention a few things that can happen when there is endless rain for days together.

Ans. Endless rains create a number of problems. The work gets obstructed as it makes difficult for people to step outside their homes. If there is no proper drainage system, it leads to problems of water logging and traffic jams on roads. During rains, there is an increase in the insect population, which could also cause diseases. Sometimes, due to excessive rains, the crop gets destroyed.

7. (i) Did Ernest see in Gathergold the likeness of the Stone Face?

Ans. No, Earnest did not see the likeness of the Great Stone Face in Gathergold.

(ii) Who did he confide in and how was he proved right?

Ans. When he realized that Gathergold did not bear the resemblance of the Great Stone Face, he confided in the Great Stone Face itself. He was proved right when Mr Gathergold lost all his wealth before he died. When all his gold was melted away, everyone living in the valley agreed that there was no likeness of the Great Stone Face in Mr Gathergold.

8. (i) What made people believe General Blood-and-Thunder was their man?

Ans. (i) General Blood-and-thunder had risen to high position from a soldier. When he returned to the valley, his childhood friends said that the General had always looked like the Stone Face.

(ii) Ernest compared the man's face with the Stone Face. What did he conclude?

Ans. (ii) Ernest compared the face of Blood-and-Thunder with the Stone Face. He could not recognise any likeness between them. He concluded that the man, bearing likeness to the Stone Face had yet to come.

9. What made the poet proclaim Ernest was the Stone Face?

Ans. Ernest and the poet together went to a meeting place. Ernest addressed the gathering. His words had power and his thoughts had depth. They were the words of life, a life of good deeds and selfless love. The poet was convinced that Ernest – was much nobler than him. Ernest's face had such a grand expression that he declared that Ernest bore the likeness of the Great Stone Face.

10. Did Ernest believe that the old prophecy had come true? What did he say about it?

Ans. Ernest had never imagined that he himself would be the Great Stone Face. He had spent much of his life waiting for the 'likeness' of the Great Stone Face to appear. Therefore, for him the old prophecy remained unfulfilled still. He remained silent on the people acclaim at Ernest himself being the Great Stone Face and continued to hope for the prophecy to come true some day.

11. What did Mrs Sappleton say about the open windows?

Ans. Mrs Sappleton apologised for the open window on an October afternoon. She explained that she was expecting her husband and two brothers to come in from the window. Since they were all muddy from the day's shooting, they entered through the window.

12. What had happened in the Sappleton family as narrated by the niece?

Ans - According to the niece, the Sappleton family had been completely shattered because of a tragedy that had occurred three years ago. The niece tells Framton that Mrs Sappleton's husband and brothers had gone shooting three years ago and had never returned ever since.

13. Why did Framton rush out wildly?

Ans. Framton rushed out wildly because he was in a "chill shock of nameless fear". He was scared and shocked to see the three men, who he thought were dead, walking towards the open window.

14. (i) What did the oldest coin tell him?

(ii) Did he follow his advice? If not, why not?

Answer: (i) The oldest coin told him that they were telling him something for his own good and he was trying to strangle them. Didn't he feel like eating those hot, hot jalebis? Besides even if he spent the coins that day he would get the scholarship money the next day. He suggested buying the sweets with the fees money and paying his fees with the scholarship money.

(ii) He didn't follow his advice. He was a promising student. He was from a good family of repute. He didn't want to get defame for it.

15. He reached home with the coins in his pocket. What happened then?

Ans. When he reached home, the coins began to speak again. When he went inside to have lunch, they began to shriek. He was so thoroughly fed up that he rushed out of the house barefoot and ran towards the market. Although he was terrified, he quickly asked for a whole rupee worth of *jalebis*. The *halwai* opened up a whole newspaper and heaped a pile of *jalebis* on it.

16. His prayer to God is like a lawyer's defence of a bad case. Does he argue his case well?

What are the points he makes?

Ans: He tries to please God with his requests and the recitation of the entire namaz. He admits that he made a mistake. He wouldn't have spent his money on jalebis if he had known about the delay in scholarship. Thus, he argues his case like a lawyer.

17. If God had granted his wish that day, what harm would it have caused him in later life?

Ans: If God had granted his wish that day, he would have never learnt a lesson from his mistake. He felt he would have continued doing wrong and bad deeds and that God would always save him upon persuasion.

18. Write a short note on the character of the schoolboy in Jalebis

Ans. The schoolboy in the story Jalebis carries four rupees to school to pay the school fees. He is honest, God fearing and brilliant student. He has won a scholarship also. He has never been punished. He enjoys prestige. He feels shy of standing in the bazaar and eating jalebis. But the coins in his pocket persuade him to go wrong. And he repents his foolishness. He asks for God's help. He can recite the namaz and some portions from the Quran. His experience, however, teaches him a valuable lesson.

19. What is the difference between a planet and a comet, as given in the story?

Ans: Like planets, comets also orbit round the Sun, but their orbits are highly eccentric. Once in a while, a comet comes close to the Sun. It has a longish tail that is lit brilliantly by the sunlight, and then it recedes into darkness, not to be seen again for years or for centuries.

20. Why was Duttada hopeful that he would discover a new comet soon?

Ans: Duttada was hopeful that he would discover a new comet soon because he knew that the professionals with their pre-assigned programmes would be looking at faint stars and nebulous galaxies. They might miss such an insignificant thing as a comet. He was also of the view that amateurs had often discovered new comets which the professionals had missed.

21. What was Dutta's hobby and secret ambition? How did he succeed in his adventure?

Ans: Duttada was an amateur astronomer. Star gazing was his hobby. But he had a scientific attitude. His secret ambition in life was to discover a comet or a shooting star. After his retirement he got the funds to buy a telescope and leisure enough to watch the stars. He named his eight-inch telescope Dibya-chakshu. He was successful in search. He discovered a comet heading towards the earth. It was called Dutta comet. The news spread world over. James Forsyth predicted that the comet would collide with the earth and destroy it. Dutta's wife, Indrani Debi, was afraid that the comet would cause ruin. She arranged a Yajna to pacify the evil spirit behind the comet. But the world scientists

prepared a plan to make a nuclear explosion and deflect the comet from its path. The operation was named Project Light Brigade. It was successful. The world was saved. But Indrani Debi gave all credit to the holy yajna she got performed.

22. Should a scientist's findings be suppressed if they seem disturbing? Give reasons for and against the topic.

Ans: No, the scientist tries to discover the truth, the factual position. His findings are based on thorough research. Hence, these should not be suppressed or ignored. Copernicus put forward the theory that the earth moves round the sun. He disproved the belief that the earth was the centre of universe. And he was right. But Galileo had to pay the price of telling a truth with his life. Let truth come to light.

23. Do you think ours is a traditional society? What are some of the things we do to be called traditional? Do you find these things useless or useful?

Ans: Ours is a traditional and conservative society. It is because of ignorance of the people. Our priests have full traditional beliefs in rites and rituals. We try to pacify the evil spirits and please God with offerings. These are futile and foolish practices.

24. Give two or three examples to show how science has been useful to us.

Ans: Science is pure knowledge, a ceaseless search to know the truth and to make new discoveries. The research is a never-ending process. Science has made life comfortable and protected us from fire, floods and diseases. If we misuse the discovery of atomic energy, it is our fault.

25. Give one example to show how science has been misused, and has as a result been harmful to us.

Ans: Science discovered gun powder and hydrogen bombs, lethal gases and other weapons of mass destruction. Instead of generating power from atomic reactors, we try to produce a bomb. Such misuse of science involves enormous loss of life and property.

**Reference to context:
(Read U-9 & 10)**