



**Easy English Study Material**  
Based on *Emanating Voices*  
(A Text Book Prescribed for B.A. Compulsory English Fifth Semester)  
by RTM Nagpur University, Nagpur

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*Disclaimer- It is only the compilation of the study material provided by various teachers of English from different colleges affiliated to RTM Nagpur University, Nagpur. Hence the style of writing may differ from teacher to teacher.*

## Contributors

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3.	Whitewashing the Fence <i>Mark Twain</i>	<b>Dr Ghizala Hashmi</b> , Porwal College of Arts, Commerce and Science, Kamptee.
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**Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University**  
**Syllabus Prescribed for**  
**Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Final Examination (Fifth Semester)**  
**Compulsory English**  
**(To be implemented from the session 2022-23 and onwards)**

**Theory Marks: 80**

**Internal Assessment Marks: 20**

**Prescribed Textbook:**

*Emanating Voices* edited by Ajiet Jachak, Neehal R. Sheikh, Sawan Dharmapuriwar (Orient BlackSwan)

**Objectives-**

1. To encourage the spirit of universal brotherhood and belief in humanity through the messages conveyed in Prose section
2. To aid students to inculcate a vision towards life
3. To make students understand the strong undercurrent of a meaningful message in a playful mode.
4. To assist students realise the significance of tenses in communicating in English.

**Outcomes-**

1. Students should be able to imbibe and implement the tenets of tolerance and simplicity in their daily lives
2. Student should be able to feel encouraged to take-up self-employment to support themselves.
3. Students should be able to identify message that positively impacts a common man's psyche.
4. Students should be able to effectively utilize their Grammar and Composition Skills

**Unit I - Prose**

1. The Mother of a Traitor - Maxim Gorky
2. Speeches at the Parliament of the Religions, 1893- Swami Vivekananda
3. Whitewashing the Fence - Mark Twain
4. Appro JRD - Sudha Murthy

**Unit II - Personalities**

1. Dhirubhai Ambani
2. Kalpana Chawla
3. L.M. Thapar

**Unit III - Poetry**

1. Dirge – James Shirley
2. The Mountain and the Squirrel - Ralph Waldo Emerson
3. Annabel Lee - Edgar Allan Poe
4. A Lament – P.B. Shelley

**Unit IV- Grammar and Composition**

1. Essay Writing
2. Tenses
3. Inventory Reports

**Internal Assessment:**

There shall be two Assignments based on prescribed syllabus carrying 10 marks each. (10 X 2 =20)

B. A. Part III  
**Semester V**  
Subject- Compulsory English  
**Total Marks-80**

Question no. 1 (A)- 3 Short Answer Questions on Unit I (Prose) with internal choice- (5 marks on each question.)- **15 Marks**

(B)- 5 Objective type questions on Unit I (Prose) (Choose the correct option form)-  
**5 Marks**

Question no. 2 (A)- 3 Short Answer Questions on Unit II (Prose) with internal choice- (5 marks on each question.)- **15 Marks**

(B)- 5 Objective type questions on Unit II (Prose) (Choose the correct option form)-  
**5 Marks**

Question no. 3 (A)- 3 Short Answer Questions on Unit III (Poetry) with internal choice- (5 marks on each question.)- **15 Marks**

(B)- 5 Objective type questions on Unit III (Poetry) (Choose the correct option form)-  
**5 Marks**

Question no. 4 (A) – Essay Writing - **10 Marks**

(B) Correct the following sentences (Five questions of one mark each) - **5 Marks**

(C) – Inventory Report - **5 Marks**

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## 1. The Mother of a Traitor

Maxim Gorky

### Summary

The story 'The Mother of a Traitor' as the name suggests deals with Monna Marianna, the mother of a traitor. Her son was the leader of the enemy who had surrounded the city. The enemy had surrounded the city in the tight ring of steel; they had also cut off all the supplies of water and food. The enemy had thrown corpses into the water resources of the city and burned down the vineyards around the walls. The night fires from their camps could be seen. The laughter of the soldiers, neighing of the horses and clanging of swords were jarring to the citizens of the city. The people in the city knew that there was little hope of help. Their hope of salvation was waning day by day. Cannons were shot every day. War weary soldiers were still protecting the city. Cries of the wounded came from the windows. Praying of women and wailing of children could be heard. People spoke in whispers. People were starving. They were afraid to light their lamps in the night.

In this darkness, Marianna covered in dark dress moved slowly about in the streets all alone hated by most people. People whispered 'Is it she? They would go away from her sight. Patrol chiefs warned her, to take her care or else she could be killed. Her name was Mona Marianna. Armed men avoided her like a corpse. Still she walked on soundless like the incarnation of the city's misfortune. A citizen and a mother, she thought of her city and her son. Her son was now the chief of the enemy attacking his own city. She loved the city built by her forefathers. She reared a son to defend it as a soldier. Now her heart weighted with the love for her native city and the love for her son. She walked on, those who recognised her turned stealthily away.

She wandered from place to place by night. One night She came across a woman wailing over a dead body. It was the dead body of her son. Her husband had died thirteen days ago. Her son died that day. Marianna asked her who he was, she said that it was her son who died for his country. She was happy that he did not betray his country like Mariamma's son. He is the enemy of God and man. May the womb that bore him and he be cursed. The old lady did not know that she was talking to Marianna herself. Marianna covered her face and went on her way. The next morning, she went to the city's defenders and asked them either to kill her or to send her to her son who is their enemy. These soldiers took counsel with one another and decided that it was no use killing the lady for the sins of her son. They were certain that she could not have led her son to commit this terrible sin. Therefore, they opened the gate and let her go. They watched her until she entered the enemy's camp.

In the enemy's camp, the soldiers enquired from her who she was and why she had come. She told the soldiers that her son was their leader and they praised him and brought her to him. He stood before her in silk and velvet, his weapons studded with precious stones. He told her that as now she has come to him, he will capture the city. He had spared the city so long for her sake. Now he will destroy it and become a hero. She told him that hero is one who does not destroy but builds. He answered that Aeneas and Romulus are the creators of the city of Rome, but Alaric, who destroyed Rome is also a hero like them. He did not know that a mother is one who creates and protects.

Dark clouds spread over the city. She remembered the day when she carried him in her body, and when she gave birth to him. He said he wanted glory, he had not thought of women or any desire to have his own children, because he did not want his children to suffer death. He did not know that a mother can be ruthless and fearless when the life she creates and cherishes is in question. Soon it was dark. The mother asked him to keep his head on her bosom. He dozed on his mother's breast like a child. She covered him in her dark cloak and killed him by plunging knife into his breast. Addressing the countrymen, she said, "As a citizen I have done for my country all I could; as a Mother I remain with my soul." She thrust the same knife into her heart and fell dead beside her son.

**Answer the following questions in short:**

**1. Contrast the life of the people in the besieged city with that of the attackers camping outside.**

The story 'The Mother of a Traitor' deals with Monna Marianna, the mother of a traitor. Her son was the leader of the enemy who had surrounded the city. The enemy had surrounded the city and had also cut off all the supplies of water and food. The night fires from their camps could be seen. The laughter of the soldiers who were well served and neighing of the horses who were well fed could be heard. These voices were jarring to the citizens of the city who were suffering endlessly. The people in the city knew that there was little hope of help. Their hope of salvation was waning day by day. The enemy threw dead bodies into the river. Cannons were shot every day. War weary soldiers were still protecting the city. Cries of the wounded came from the windows. Praying of women and wailing of children could be heard. People spoke in whispers. People were starving. They were afraid to light their lamps in the night.

**2. What did the people of the city think of the protagonist? Why?**

In this darkness Marianna covered in dark dress moved slowly about in the streets all alone hated by most people. People whispered 'Is it she? They would go away from her sight. Patrol chiefs warned her, to take her care or else she could be killed. Her name was Monna Marianna. Armed men avoided her like a corpse. Still she walked on soundless like the incarnation of the city's misfortune. A citizen and a mother, she thought of her city and her son. Her son was now the chief of the enemy attacking his own city. She loved the city built by her forefathers. She reared a son to defend it as a soldier. Now her heart weighted with the love for her native city and the love for her son. She walked on, those who recognised her turned stealthily away.

**3. What did the protagonist ask her city's defenders to do? What reason did they give for their decision?**

One-night Marianna came across a woman wailing over a dead body. It was the dead body of her son. Her husband had died thirteen days ago. Her son died that day. She told Marianna that her son died for his country. She was happy that he did not betray his country like Marianna's son. The old lady did not know that she was talking to Marianna herself. She cursed her son and the womb that had given birth to him. Marianna covered her face and went on her way. The next morning, she went to the city's defenders and asked them either to kill her or to send her to her son who is their enemy. These soldiers took counsel with one another and decided that it was no use killing the lady for the sins of her son. They were certain that she could not have led her son to commit this terrible sin. Therefore, they opened the gate and let her go.

**4. What did the protagonist weigh in the scale of her heart? What weighted more? Justify.** Marianna, a citizen and a mother, she thought of her city and her son. Her son was now the chief of the enemy attacking his own city. She loved the city built by her forefathers. She reared a son to defend it as a soldier. Now her heart weighted with the love for her native city and the love for her son. As a citizen her heart was weeping as her son was giving suffering to the citizen. Finally, she goes to her son. She tries to convince her son that hero is one who creates life. But her son arrogantly answers that the destroyer is more glorious than the builder. Finally, Marinna makes her son rest in her lap and kills him by pushing a knife into his heart. Thus, her love for her country weighted more than the love for her traitor son.

**5. What kind of reception did the mother receive from the enemy's soldier? How did she react to the reception and why?**

One-night Marianna came across a woman wailing over the dead body of her son. Her husband had died thirteen days ago. She was happy that he did not betray his country like Mariamma's son. The old lady did not know that she was talking to Marianna herself. The next morning, Marianna went to the city's defenders and asked them either to kill her or to send her to her son who is their enemy. The soldiers opened the gate and let her go. In the enemy's camp, the soldiers enquired from her who she was and why she had come. She told the soldiers that her son was their leader and they praised him and brought her to him. He stood before her in silk and velvet, his weapons studded with precious stones. This is how she had seen him many a time in her dreams—rich, famous and beloved.

**6. Why had the protagonist's son spared his native city for so long? Why was he eager to attack that night itself?**

In the enemy's camp, the soldiers enquired Marianna from her who she was and why she had come. She told the soldiers that her son was their leader and they praised him and brought her to him. He stood before her in silk and velvet, his weapons studded with precious stones. He told her that as now she has come to him, he will capture the city. He had spared the city so long for her sake. Now he will destroy it and become a hero. He told her that he would attack the coming night itself. He decided to attack in the night itself as during the day It is hard to kill when the sun shines and the glitter of the weapons blinds you. Because of this many of the blows go off the mark he said examining his sword.

**7. 'She saw it all.....awaiting her decision.' What was the Protagonists decision? Do you think she made her decision when she left the city or later? Justify.**

Marinna's son was head of the men destroying the town. She thought previously that her son would do something for the country. As a citizen her heart was weeping as her son was giving suffering to the citizen. Finally, she goes to her son. She tries to convince her son that hero is one who creates life. But her son arrogantly answers that he can become famous by destroying others life. He says people don't remember the men who built the Rome but remembers the men who destroyed Rome. Finally, Marinna makes her son rest in her lap and kills him by pushing a knife into his heart. Her attempt to convince her son shows that she had not made this decision when had left the city. It was made later after she failed to convince her son.

## Multiple Choice questions

### 1. What had the enemy done to the city?

- A. Provided supply of food and water
- B. Created pollution by burning withered grass
- C. surrounded in a light ring of steel for several weeks
- D. destroyed places of worship

### 2. Why were people afraid to light candles at night?

- A. because they could be attacked by the enemy soldiers.
- B. because that could have attracted flies
- C. because there was scarcity of oil in the city
- D. because it would misguide the defenders of the city

### 3. What had the enemy done to the water resources of the city?

- A. Polluted the water by throwing corpses into it
- B. Poisoned it with chemicals
- C. Changed the direction of the flow of water by making canals
- D. Blocked them by raising small dams

### 4. What activity of the enemy could be seen from the walls?

- A. Dark shadows could be seen hovering about the fires
- B. the neighing of the horses, clanging of weapons
- C. the songs and laughter of the enemy could be heard
- D. all the above

### 5. What made the city stood exposed to the attack of enemies?

- A. the enemy had burned down vineyards
- B. the enemy had trampled the fields
- C. the enemy had cut down the orchards
- D. all the above

### 6. Why were the nights worst according to the author?

- A. Because during the enemy would intensify the attack
- B. People unable to sleep imagined attack they would face the next day
- C. People would assemble to oppose the inability of their army to protect them
- D. In the stillness of the night, the groans and cries were more distinctly heard

### 7. What general sufferings of the public could be heard in the city from the windows of the houses?

- A. the groans of the wounded
- B. the prayers of women
- C. the wailing of children
- D. all the above

### 8. One day in a remote corner by the city walls a woman was kneeling beside the corpse of her

- A. husband
- B. neighbor
- C. son

D. brother

**9. The slain boy's mother was-**

- A. blaming the king for the death of her son
- B. proud of her son who died honorably
- C. cursing the enemies for killing her son
- D. prepared to send her younger son to fight the enemies

**10. What did the mother of the slain boy had feared for him?**

- A. that fond of revelry she feared that he would defame her one day
- B. that full of patriotic feeling she feared that he would turn martyr
- C. being ambitious he would join the enemy
- D. none of the above

**11. What remark did the woman make about to Marianna?**

- A. She cursed her son and her womb
- B. She cursed the upbringing of her son
- C. She cursed her for not letting army surrender
- D. She cursed the husband of Marianna

**12. What did the traitor's mother ask the city defenders to do?**

- A. to attack the army of her son in the dark night hours
- B. to kill her or to allow her to go outside the city to meet her son
- C. to felicitate the mother who had sacrificed her son for the city
- D. to forgive her for being the mother of a traitor

**13. When Marianna appeared before the defenders of the city, they decided to:**

- A. kill her
- B. arrest her
- C. allow her to leave the city
- D. stop her

**14. What, according to the city's defenders, was the mother's punishment?**

- A. that she should be exiled
- B. that her son had forgotten her
- C. that she should be hanged to death
- D. that her son should be punished in front of her eyes

**15. When traitor's mother walked away from the city, the defenders thought-**

- A. that with her went their dejection and hopelessness
- B. that she would persuade her son and bring relief to the city
- C. that the soldiers of enemy will kill her without knowing her identity
- D. that she might reveal the secrets of the city to her son

**16. How did Marianna's feel while walking away from her native city.**

- A. her feet were reluctant to tear themselves away from this soil
- B. She was happy that she would be meeting her son
- C. She was relieved that she was going away from city where people hated her
- D. She was in dilemma if she should stay in the city or join her son

**17. How did the enemy soldiers describe Mariana's son to her?**

- A. as a cruel soldier
- B. as a brave and clever
- C. as a selfish leader
- D. as a patriotic person

**18. Describe Marianna's traitor son as he stood before her in his camp.**

- A. He stood in silk and velvet, his weapons studded with precious stones
- B. He stood giving orders to his army
- C. He stood praising his mother for making him so clever and strong
- D. He stood feeling sorry for his act of violence

**19. The son could not understand his mother's feelings**

- A. because he wanted to avenge his father's death
- B. because he was blinded by the cold glitter of glory that deadens the heart
- C. because he had promised his soldiers that they will rule the city
- D. because after capturing the city he would be the emperor

**20. Why had the son spared the city for so long?**

- A. because the weather was not suitable for attack
- B. because he was emotionally attached to it
- C. because his mother was there in it
- D. because his soldiers needed some rest after a long travel

**21. How did the mother try to dissuade the son from his plan to attack the city?**

- A. by telling him that his enemy's army was stronger than his army
- B. by telling him his soldiers will get confused with the directions in the city
- C. by telling him that his father too was a soldier of city he plans to attack
- D. by telling him that he was destroying his own country

**22. Marianna killed**

- A. her son
- B. only herself
- C. her son and herself
- D. the soldier

**23. How did the mother kill the son and herself?**

- A. by poisoning their food
- B. by bringing the thatched roof
- C. by plunging a knife into their heart
- D. none of the above

### Answer Key

Ques	Correct option	Ques	Correct option	Ques	Correct option	Ques	Correct option
01	C	07	D	13	C	19	B
02	A	08	C	14	B	20	C
03	A	09	B	15	A	21	D
04	D	10	A	16	A	22	C
05	D	11	A	17	B	23	C
06	D	12	B	18	A	----	----

## 2. Speeches at the World Parliament of the World's Religions Chicago 1893

**Swami Vivekananda**

### Summary

Swami Vivekananda began his speech as a response to the welcome given by the World's Parliament of Religions on September 11, 1893. He addressed Americans as his sisters and brothers which was received with great applause from everyone present there. He thanked everyone for giving such a warm & cordial welcome to one of the most ancient orders of monks in the world and gave his thanks on behalf of millions of Hindu people belonging to different classes and sects. He also thanked the speakers from different parts of the world who were there to represent their ideas. Swami Vivekananda stated that he feels proud of belonging to a nation which has taught the world values like tolerance and acceptance. His country has given shelter to Israeli people whose temples were shattered by Romans. He remembers a few lines from a hymn from his childhood which states that all human beings seem like different streams but mingle with the sea at the end, the same is applicable to all religions in the world. The present meeting of different individuals representing their country and religion is supposed to place the wonderful doctrine which is already in the holy book 'The Gita' of Hindu religion. All the human beings who are struggling through their parts are leading towards Me in the end. The Earth is possessed with sectarianism, bigotry and fanaticism. It has brought only violence, bloodshed & destroyed human civilization. Swami Vivekananda is strongly hopeful that the present gathering would bring the death-knell of all such fanaticism, persecutions of the sword or pen, etc.

While putting his words on the point "Why We Disagree on September 15, 1893", Swami Vivekananda had told a story of a frog who was living in a well and the frog considered the well his world. One day, a frog from the sea came into the well. Both of them began to quarrel about which was the bigger place, sea or the well. This story, according to Swami Vivekananda, is apt & applicable to human beings and their religions. Everyone is trying to identify oneself as Hindu or Christian or Muslim and thinks that it's there the whole world. Swami Vivekananda gives his special thanks to America for breaking down such a notion by organising such an event and God will definitely help us all in accomplishing the right purpose to make this world a peaceful place to live in.

While giving "Address at the Final Session on September 27 1893", Swami Vivekananda gave special thanks to noble souls who had dreamed about this event and then actually made it happen. He paid his special thanks to the speakers who had given their liberal sentiments from this platform. He had again given his thanks to the enlightened audience for their kindness and appreciation of every thought on the topic. Except for a few, the whole event was full of harmony. He paid special thanks to those who had given contrasting views or ideas on the given topic with their own wittiness. Most of them had given many ideas to the world about religious unity but in reality, it's not possible to bring any religion to prosperity by destroying the other. He gave an example of a seed which was being put on the ground and with the help of air, water and atmosphere it was going to be developed into a plant or tree. The same is applicable with religion also. It's not going to be easy for any individual to get converted into

another religion instantly. We all have to respect, preserve and grow the religion at its own pace. According to Swami Vivekananda, the Parliament of Religions has shown to the world that purity, holiness and charity are not the exclusive rights or possessions of any religion in the world. If any individual dreams of the survival of religion, it is not going to happen with destruction. Swami Vivekananda states the motto for the prosperity of any religion which must be like this: 'Help and not Fight' , 'Assimilation and not Destruction' , 'Harmony & Peace and not Dissension'.

**Answer the following questions in short:**

**1. Write a critical summary of Swami Vivekananda's views on religion and Hinduism as presented in his speeches at the Parliament of the World's Religions.**

Swami Vivekananda is known to the world as an ardent supporter of Hindu religion and its philosophy. His views on religion and Hinduism, as presented in his speeches at the Parliament of the World's Religions, can be critically summarised as follows: Swami Vivekananda pays special thanks to the organizers on behalf of millions of Hindu people of all classes & sects for giving warm & cordial welcome. He feels proud for belonging to the Hindu religion which has taught the world values like tolerance and universal acceptance. Hindu religion accepts all the religions of the world as true. He feels proud of being Hindu for giving shelter to Zoroastrian nation.

All the people belonging to different religions are fighting like a frog who thinks that the well is the world & nothing can be bigger than it. He gives special thanks to the organizers, eloquent speakers, participants from different corners of the world as well as of different religions & the enlightened audience to make the event a grand success. He is of the opinion that if any religion wants to prosper in the world, it can be done only through true spirit and by giving proper time accordingly required to the seed to get converted into a plant.

**2. What is the primary theme running through all three speeches? Examine this theme in detail, and show how Vivekananda touches upon it in his addresses to the parliament. Why do you think this is an important concern for him?**

The primary theme running through all the three speeches is about Hindu religion, its importance & impact all over the world. Swami Vivekananda in his first speech provides glimpses of importance about Hindu religion and its philosophy. Hindu religion has taught the world the core values of tolerance and universal acceptance. Hindu religion accepts all the other religions as true. Swami Vivekananda feels proud in stating that Hindu religion has given shelter to the Zoroastrian nation. He remembers the doctrine from the holy book of Hindu 'The Gita' which states that all men who are struggling in different paths of their life will lead to God. The present gathering will be the death-knell to all the fanaticism & persecutions.

Swami Vivekananda is of the view that all the people belonging to different religions should not fight like the frog in a well thinking the well as its world. All must respect every religion & it's the only way to grow one's religion. As we put a seed in the soil, with the help of air, water, sunlight & atmosphere it turns into a plant after a passage of time. The same process

is required for the growth of every religion. Destruction is not going to help anyone in growing one's religion in the world.

### **3. According to Swami Vivekananda, what are the evils that prevent the advancement of society?**

According to Swami Vivekananda, hatred is one of the biggest evils which has brought many nations to its destruction. The people of Israel are the best example of it, who have to vacate their own country due to Romans. Sectarianism, bigotry & fanaticism have been the most found evils in the society. All these elements have brought only destruction, bloodshed, destroyed human civilisation and a number of nations are in a state of despair. Disagreement is also one of the evils which has brought many nations in the state of destruction. Numerous people are living their life like a frog in a well who thinks that the well is the only world that exists and nothing is bigger than it. This is also applicable to human beings who think that their religion is like a well for them & the whole world also.

### **4. How has India displayed religious tolerance to the world?**

India has displayed religious tolerance through many examples to the world. Let's try to understand it with some of the contents. Swami Vivekananda feels proud of belonging to a nation which has taught the whole world the value of universal tolerance. India has given shelter to the people of Israel. India has also given shelter to Zoroastrian nation. India has accepted all the religions of the world as true. The roots of the World's Parliament of Religions and its doctrine are found in the holy book of Hindu religion "The Gita". India has shown the world that without being a follower of fanaticism, bigotry & sectarianism one can make this world a beautiful place to live. If these horrible elements weren't part of our society, the world could have progressed with far more speed than it's now.

### **5. Explain Vivekananda's reason for telling the story of the frog in the well.**

Swami Vivekananda wanted to tell a story about a frog who lived in the bell well. All the speakers in the audience said that they should stop abusing each other. Swami Vivekananda felt that there should always be variance. You married the cause of the variance. Swami Vivekananda wanted to tell a story of a frog who lives in a well for a long time and he believes that the will well is his world and there is nothing bigger than the well in the world. In human society, this attitude or mindset is the real cause of concern till date. Every person in the world who belongs to a different religion, thinks and acts like that frog. To directly illustrate this point, Swami Vivekananda has given us the example of the story about a frog in the well.

### **6. Whom does Vivekananda thank in his last speech? What does this reveal about his character?**

Swami Vivekananda thanks to all the noble souls who have dreamed about this wonderful event and actually presented it in front of the world. He gives thanks to all those speakers who have given their liberal sentiments from the stage of the World's Parliament of Religions. He thanks the enlightened audience for their appreciation of every thought and uniform kindness. He has given his thanks to those speakers who have presented contrasting ideas so as to make the event fruitful on a balanced scale.

**7. Explain the metaphor of the seed in Vivekananda's concluding address. What point does he seek to illustrate?**

Swami Vivekananda has used the metaphor of the seed. He says that the seed becomes a plant with its natural law of growth and not the earth or the air or the water. The seed grows itself by assimilating the air, the earth, the water and finally converts them into a substance which makes the seed grow into a plant. Swami Vivekananda applies this same theory with religion. He states that the Christian is not going to become a Hindu or a Buddhist, nor a Hindu or a Buddhist to become a Christian. He says that every religion must assimilate the spirit of others which preserves individuality and allows every religion to grow accordingly.

**Multiple Choice Questions**

**1. What, according to Swami Vivekananda, has Hinduism taught him?**

- A. Tolerance and universal acceptance
- B. Silence
- C. Honesty
- D. Non-violence

**2. Swami Vivekananda initiated the western world to which tenets?**

- A. Tenets of Yoga and Vedanta
- B. Tenets of Om Shanti
- C. Tenets of Meditation
- D. Tenets of Mindfulness

**3. Who represented India at World Parliament of Religions in Chicago in 1893?**

- A. Swami Paramhansa
- B. Swami Vivekananda
- C. Swami Yogananda
- D. Swami Acharya

**4. Where was Swami Vivekananda born in?**

- A. In Punjabi family
- B. In Tamil family
- C. In an affluent and educated Bengali family
- D. In an uneducated & illiterate UP family

**5. What did Swami Vivekananda understand by travelling across India and his strong interaction with the Indian masses?**

- A. The need to eradicate poverty & illiteracy
- B. The problem regarding oppression of women
- C. The poor in Indian Society
- D. All of the above

**6. Why did Swami Vivekananda form the Ramakrishna Mission?**

- A. To bring unification of various Hindu sects through common foundation
- B. To focus the attention of educated people on the downtrodden masses
- C. Both of the above
- D. None of the above

**7. What did Swami Vivekananda try to achieve through his speeches?**

- A. the idea of tolerance
- B. idea of universal harmony within the context of religious pluralism
- C. to attract international attention
- D. All of the above

**8. Where did Swami Vivekananda embark on a series of public and private lectures spreading the doctrine of Hindu philosophy?**

- A. In the UK, the USA and Europe
- B. In India
- C. In Srilankan
- D. In Afghanistan

**9. Swami traveled internationally to spread interfaith awareness for-**

- A. Almost four months
- B. Almost four years
- C. Almost four days
- D. Almost four weeks

**10. Which words did Swami Vivekananda use to address Americans?**

- A. Sisters and Brothers of America
- B. My fellow Americans
- C. My hostile Americans
- D. None of the above

**11. When did Swami Vivekananda give his response to the welcome address?**

- A. On September 11, 1893
- B. On September 11, 1894
- C. On September 11, 1895
- D. On September 11, 1896

**12. How did Swami Vivekananda thank for his warm and cordial welcome?**

- A. Thanks in the name of the most ancient order of monks in the world
- B. Thanks in the name of the mother of religions
- C. Thanks in the name of the millions of Hindu people of all classes and sects
- D. All of the above

**13. What does, according to Swami Vivekananda, Hindu religion believe?**

- A. In hatred
- B. Not only in universal toleration but also in accepting all religions as true
- C. Intolerance
- D. None of the above

**14. Why does Swami Vivekananda feel proud to be an Indian?**

- A. Indians like Indians
- B. Indians hate other countrymen
- C. India has given shelter to the persecuted and the refugees of all religions
- D. None of the above

**15. Where did Israeli people take refuge?**

- A. South Africa
- B. South America
- C. Southern India
- D. South Korea

**16. Who had shattered the holy temple of Israeli people?**

- A. Roman
- B. German
- C. Russian
- D. American

**17. Which of the following doctrines does the Gita preach?**

- A. Different streams mingle their water in the sea
- B. All men are struggling through paths which in the end lead to Me
- C. Different paths men take through different tendencies
- D. None of the above

**18. Which of the following have long possessed this Earth, according to Swami?**

- A. Sectarianism
- B. Bigotry
- C. Fanaticism
- D. All of the above

**19. What had Sectarianism, Bigotry & Fanaticism filled the Earth with?**

- A. Love
- B. Violence, destruction of civilization, despair of nations
- C. Happiness
- D. Mercy

**20. What kind of hope does Swami Vivekananda have about the bell?**

- A. It may be the death-knell of fanaticism & of persecutions with sword or pen
- B. It may be the death-knell of uncharitable feelings between persons
- C. Both A & B
- D. None of the above

**21. When did Swami Vivekananda give his speech on 'Why We Disagree'?**

- A. On August 15, 1893
- B. On September 15, 1893
- C. On October 15, 1893
- D. On November 15, 1893

**22. What did the eloquent speaker say, according to Swami Vivekananda?**

- A. Let us cease from abusing each other
- B. Let us start fighting with each other
- C. Let us initiate slapping each other
- D. Let us begin to curse each other

**23. Which story did Swami Vivekananda tell?**

- A. A lion lived in a forest
- B. A mouse lived in a house
- C. A frog lived in a well
- D. A snake lived in a river

**24. Where did another frog come into the well ?**

- A. From river
- B. From lake
- C. From pond
- D. From Sea

**25. Whom did Vivekananda say thanks for great attempt to break down the barriers**

- A. America
- B. France
- C. Japan
- D. Germany

**Answer Key**

Ques	Correct option	Ques	Correct option	Ques	Correct option	Ques	Correct option
01	A	07	D	13	B	19	B
02	A	08	A	14	C	20	C
03	B	09	B	15	C	21	B
04	C	10	A	16	A	22	A
05	D	11	A	17	B	23	C
06	C	12	D	18	D	24	D
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### 3. Whitewashing the Fence

Mark Twain

#### Summary

In the story white washing the fence by Mark Twain's. This small part is taken from the main story the adventures of Tom Sawyer. The story white washing the fence is about the protagonist Tom how he implies his team work skills and makes the difficult task given by Aunt Polly easy.

Once Saturday which was the holiday Tom did not had school or any homework to do and therefore Tom was very happy but just than Aunt Polly called him and said

*'You are not going to play and you have to white wash the whole fence''.*

Tom becomes very sad because it was such a big fence and he had to do lot of white washing but suddenly a brilliant idea came in the mind of Tom. He took up his brush and started the work silently .It was summer and the raised of the sun was very harsh soon Tom saw Ben had a nice red apple with him .Tom mouth watered but continued with white washing the fence .Ben wanted to make fun of Tom and therefore he went to talk and said “ Work even on holidays?” but Tom replied he do not consider this as work because it gives pleasure to Tom and the thinks that delight Tom is not “ Work” for him .He again stated white washing it. Tom started white washing the fence like an artist Ben watch all this and he was getting more and more interested at last Ben ask Tom “Tom, Let me white wash a little” but Tom answered negatively and added that aunt Polly is very particular about this fence and everybody cannot paint the whole right way but Ben was getting very much interested and said “I will be very careful but let me tried just a little”. Tom again said he has no any problem with him whitewashing the fence but if aunt Polly will come to know then she would kill him “She want me and me alone to do it” than Ben said to talk that he will let him to white wash the fence than Ben will give Tom half of his apple but again Tom said “I am afraid ....” Than Ben said he will give Tom whole apple and finally Tom gave the brush to Ben and Ben started work of white washing the fence while Tom sat down happily in the shadow of a tree and started eating the apple. Pour Ben sweated in the sun for a long time when Ben was tried Tom gave the brush to Billy to whitewash. Billy gave a kite to Tom when Billy was tried. Johnny miller got his pair of marbles and gave them to Tom.

Thus everybody paid a prize to get a chance to white wash the fence. They came to laugh at Tom but Tom made them work and by afternoon the white wash was over when Aunt Polly saw the fence she was very surprised the whole fence was nicely whitewashed and with three coats of paint this was possible because Tom unknowing harnessed the benefit of team work for his own ends. Thus whitewashing the entire fence within after noon was not only difficult task for Tom but was also impossible and by implying the intelligence tom made that near impossible task not only possible but interesting as the proverb suggest many hands make light work and many hands shatter stout walls”.

Tom knew that all of this friend will be enjoying the holiday accept him but his intelligent and his innocence worked and the task of whitewashing fence given by aunt Polly was completed in the given time.

On Saturday morning, Aunt Polly sends Tom out to whitewash the fence. Jim passes by, and Tom tries to get him to do some of the whitewashing in return for a “white alley,” a kind of marble. Jim almost agrees, but Aunt Polly appears and chases him off, leaving Tom alone with his labor.

A little while later, Ben Rogers, another boy Tom's age, walks by. Tom convinces Ben that whitewashing a fence is great pleasure, and after some bargaining, Ben agrees to give Tom his

apple in exchange for the privilege of working on the fence. Over the course of the day, every boy who passes ends up staying to whitewash, and each one gives Tom something in exchange. By the time the fence has three coats, Tom has collected a hoard of miscellaneous treasures. Tom muses that all it takes to make someone want something is to make that thing hard to get.

**Answer the following questions in short:**

**1. Describe in your own words the mood expressed in the opening lines of the story.**

It was a Saturday summer morning and all the world was bright, fresh and quite rejuvenating. There was a song in everyone's heart, there was cheer in every face and spring in every step. Everything was just dreamy, reposeful and lively. Nature was in full bloom and the air was filled with the sweet fragrance of the flowers. The village seemed to be as delectable as it can be and had its own green carpet which added to its charm.

Tom was assigned the work of whitewashing the fence. The sight of the vast area of Aunt Polly's whitewashed, thirty yards of board fence, nine feet high, left Tom with a deep sense of gloom. His spirited disposition gave way to utter dejection. The fact that he would have to paint it discouraged him severely and took away all his happiness. His sorrow multiplied many folds when he realized that his friends may make fun of his predicament. Thus, the mood set in the opening lines are pleasing and encouraging, immediately giving way to a more remorseful and sombre reaction on the part of Tom.

**2. How does the imposition of a task influence the way Tom views what are the routine scenes and activities, like the village and fetching water from the town pump?**

Tom has been assigned the work of whitewashing the fence, which is going to take his whole Saturday. He was utterly disappointed on the very thought of it. Life, at that moment seemed hopeless. With half-heartedness, he picked up the brush, dipped it in the paint and passed it on the plank. He repeated it a few times and sat down on a tree-box. Right at the moment, Jim came skipping out jauntily with a tin pail. Tom had always detested the job of fetching water from the town pump. He remembered the company at the town pump. White, mulatto and Negro boys and girls were always there waiting their turns, resting, quarrelling, fighting and skylarking. The routine scene of the village seemed very appealing to Tom now, just because he also remembered that although that the pump was only a hundred and fifty yards off, Jim never got back with a bucket of water under an hour. This fact appealed to Tom and then he thought of trading his chore with that of Jim's.

**3. How did Tom try to persuade Jim to help with his task and what was the result?**

Tom was never interested in fetching water from the town pump, but at the moment, he detested the chore of whitewashing the fence. The routine scene of the village seemed very appealing to Tom now, just because he also remembered that although that the pump was only a hundred and fifty yards off, Jim never got back with a bucket of water under an hour. This fact appealed to Tom and then he thought of trading his chore with that of Jim's. He tried to persuade Jim to help him out with whitewashing the fence and he would fetch water instead. Jim is reluctant as he does not want to be punished by Aunt Polly. Tom persuades Jim by offering his

marvel, then a white alley, a bully taw and finally he promises to show him his sore toe. This offer is too attractive for Jim. He immediately agrees to trade places with Tom. But while the bandage was being unwound, Aunt Polly appears, Smacks Jim on his rear and poor Tom had to get back to painting the fence.

**4. What was Tom's 'great, magnificent inspiration' and how did it help him avoid having to work?**

Tom's 'great, magnificent inspiration' was that he develops a plan for tricking other boys into doing most of his work by making the work seem like a privilege instead of a chore. He made his friends believe that whitewashing is an art which all cannot do. He pretends to enjoy doing it and appears to be reluctant to give it up. Another plan he devises is to trick them into doing most of his work by bribing them with his 'worldly wealth' in order to get the boys to paint the fence. This tactic worked and his friends requested to give them a chance to try their hand at whitewashing the fence. In return they all gave something to show obligation. This way Tom managed to complete his work, without sweating it out himself.

**5. Analyse the character of Tom.**

Tom is a mischievous boy with an active imagination who spends most of the novel getting himself, and often his friends, into and out of trouble. Despite his mischief, Tom has a good heart and a strong moral conscience. He was smart despite his disdain for school. His pranks never really hurt anybody, just tricked them, and if the other boys had been smarter, they could have held on to their trinkets. He was kind, where the other boys just saw Huck as some sort of forbidden thrill. Tom was a true friend and also a cool kid, but born with the advantage of a warm and safe family. He is a kidder, an imp, a gentle trickster. The way Tom gets the fence whitewashed is a reflection of Tom's character. Depressed by the thought of spending his Saturday painting, he twists the scenario to his advantage and cons his friends into painting for him. The fence does symbolize his avoidance of responsibility as well as his sharp wit.

**6. Explain how Mark Twain's use of dialect in dialogue helps to create a setting and atmosphere for the story.**

Mark Twain has made ample use of dialect in dialogue to help create a setting and atmosphere for the story. Afro American Vernacular English, which includes various idioms, patois, argot, idiolects and social dialect of the black people, especially those who have adapted to colonial circumstances. In this story, Jim, a black slave, is presented as an uneducated, uncivilized boy and his dialect is full of grammatical dialectal constructions including verb conjugation, the present tense, pronouns, double negation, the use of the past participle as simple past form etc. The dialect portrays certain characters in the story as lacking formal education in Standard English, helps establish the rural setting. The use of dialect also help distinguish characters and adds depth to the characters. Twain also depicts the local colour and manipulates the vernacular of the time period the story is set in.

## 7. What insight does this extract provide into human psychology?

In this chapter, Tom reveals his basic knowledge of human psychology, that is, that a person most desires what cannot be easily attained. Tom is also a fine actor, and he cleverly uses this ability in handling his friends. Thus, Tom is able to use this basic understanding of human nature to get others to do his work for him and to pay for the privilege of doing it. Instead of being able to join the others at the town center, he brings the center of the town to him, has others to do his work for him, and ends up with all sort of treasures. In this way, Twain reveals Tom as a Natural leader. Throughout the novel, we see that Tom is the leader; it will always be “Tom Sawyer’s gang”. It is always Tom’s ideas of what game to play, and Tom is always the winner in games as well as fights with his peers. He is usually also a winner in his conflicts with the adult world.

### Multiple Choice Questions

- 1. What task was Jim set by Aunt Polly?**
  - a. To whitewash the fence
  - b. To bring water from the town pump
  - c. To check on Tom’s work
  - d. To tend to his own business
  
- 2. What did Tom offer Jim in order to try and convince him to whitewash the fence?**
  - a. A fragment of chalk
  - b. Bits of his toys
  - c. Marbles
  - d. A kite
  
- 3. ‘The very thought of it burnt him like fire’, what thought is being spoken about?**
  - a. The other boys making fun of Tom for having to work
  - b. Whitewashing the fence on a Saturday morning
  - c. Fetching water from the town pump
  - d. Parting with his ‘worldly wealth’
  
- 4. Whom does the author refer to as ‘ a great and wise philosopher’?**
  - a. Aunt polly
  - b. Tom Sawyer
  - c. Aristotle
  - d. Mark Twain
  
- 5. Who was Ben Rogers pretending to be?**
  - a. Aunt polly
  - b. Billy Fisher
  - c. Big Missouri
  - d. Johnny Miller
  
- 6. Tom let Ben believe that.....**
  - a. He was bored of whitewashing the fence.
  - b. Whitewashing the fence was an important and interesting job
  - c. He was whitewashing the fence because he was scared of Aunt Polly
  - d. He would give Ben his ‘worldly wealth’ if he whitewashed the fence.

- 7. Tom gave up the ‘privilege’ of whitewashing the fence when Ben offered him .....**
- The core of his apple
  - A bully taw
  - A kite
  - A whole apple

- 8. What was the ‘great law of human action’ that Tom had discovered?**
- To make a person want something, it is necessary to make the thing difficult to attain
  - To make a person want something, it is necessary to make the thing easy to attain
  - To make a person want something, it is necessary to make the thing interesting
  - To make a person want something, it is necessary to make the thing coveted by everyone around them.

**9. Which of the following statements is not true?**

- Tom convinced the other boys to whitewash the fence for him by presenting it as play
- The boys offered Tom various playthings in exchange for whitewashing the fence, because they believed that it was an enjoyable, important activity.
- A pleasurable activity can be seen as an onerous task if it is viewed as ‘work’
- Work consists of whatever a body is not obliged to do, and play consists of whatever a body is obliged to do.

**10. Which of the following words best describes the extract you just read?**

- A. Sentimental                      B. Humorous                      C. Pessimistic                      D. Thrilling

**Answer Key**

Question No	Correct Option	Question No	Correct Option	Question No	Correct Option	Question No	Correct Option
01	B	04	D	07	D	10	B
02	C	05	C	08	D	-----	-----
03	A	06	B	09	D	-----	-----

#### 4. Apro JRD

Sudha Murty

##### Summary

In the essay 'Apro JRD' Sudha Murty recollects her memories about JRD Tata. She starts her day in her office after a look towards photographs hanged in her office wall. Those photographs are of Jamshedji Tata and JRD Tata. She says that these people have made an impact on her life. Apro means 'our' in Gujarati. This was the affectionate term by which people at Bombay House used call JRD Tata.

She says that she was studying in final year of her master's course in computer science at IISc, Bangalore. She was angry at seeing a job advertisement posted by the Tata company asking female candidates not to apply. She sent a postcard to JRD Tata writing about the discrimination against women in their companies. She posted the letter and forgot it. In less than ten days, she received a telegram stating that she had to appear for an interview at Telco's Pune based company at the company's expense.

Initially she was not ready to go for the interview. Her hostel-mates told her that she should use the opportunity as a free trip to Pune during which she could buy sarees for her friends. She went to Telco's Pimpri office for the interview. She behaved little rudely at the beginning of the interview. After a long interview she was selected for the job. She had never thought she would take up a job in Pune. It was her first visit to Pune and she immediately fell in love with the city. She met a shy young man from Karnataka and they became good friends and finally got married.

She realized about the greatness of JRD Tata only after joining Telco. He was the uncrowned king of the Indian industry. Now she was scared to meet him, but she did not get an opportunity to meet him till she was transferred to Head Office at Bombay. One day she had to show some reports to the chairman Mr. Moolgaokar, in his office. At that time suddenly JRD walked in. That was the first time she saw 'Apro JRD'. JRD remarked it was nice that girls were getting into engineering in our country. After that, she used to see JRD on and off. One evening when she was alone in the parking lot, JRD waited there until her husband comes.

In 1982 she had to resign from her job at Telco as she wanted to help her husband in his new company 'Infosys' started at Pune. When she met JRD before leaving the company, he suggested her to always have confidence and give back to the society. She considered JRD as a great man, an extremely busy person, who valued one postcard written by a young girl seeking justice against the discrimination of women.

Her love and respect for the house of Tatas remained undiminished by the passage of time. She always considered JRD to be her role model- for his simplicity, generosity, kindness and the care he took of his employees. She expresses the wish that JRD Tata were alive to see her company's success. The blue eyes of JRD always reminded her of the sky.

**Answer each of the following questions in short:**

**1. Describe Sudha Murty's first experience of gender discrimination.**

In the essay 'Appro JRD' Sudha Murty recollects her memories about JRD Tata. She says that she was studying in final year of her master's course in computer science at IISc, Bangalore. She was the only girl studying post-graduation in the institution. She was angry at seeing a job advertisement posted by the Tata company asking female candidates not to apply. It was her first experience of gender discrimination. She sent a postcard to JRD Tata to protest the discrimination against women in their companies. She questioned him about not hiring a lady engineer. She posted the letter and forgot it. In less than ten days, she received a telegram stating that she had to appear for an interview at Telco's Pune based company. Sudha Murty claimed that there was nothing great about her writing a letter to JRD Tata, the great thing was JRD read that postcard sent by a girl who was from a small town like Hubli.

**2. Convey in your own words what Sudha Murty wrote in her postcard to JRD Tata. What reply did she receive?**

Sudha Murty was angry at seeing a job advertisement posted by the Tata company asking female candidates not to apply. It was her first experience of gender discrimination. She decided to inform the topmost person in TELCO's management about the injustice the company was enacting. She sent a postcard to JRD Tata to protest the discrimination against women in their companies. She wrote that the great Tatas are pioneers in the field of industry, education and infrastructural growth in India. They have cared for higher education in India since 1900. She continued writing by stating that she was surprised how a company like Tata is discriminating on the basis of gender. She questioned him about not hiring lady engineers in TELCO. Sudha Murty claimed that there was nothing great about her writing a letter to JRD Tata, the great thing was JRD read that postcard sent by an unknown girl and replied it in the form of a telegram stating that she had to appear for an interview at Telco's Pune based company.

**3. Summarize what happened during Sudha Murty's interview at TELCO?**

She sent a postcard to JRD Tata to protest the discrimination against women in their companies. She posted the letter and forgot it. In less than ten days, she received a telegram stating that she had to appear for an interview at Telco's Pune based company. It was her first visit to Pune and she immediately fell in love with the city and remained dear to it. She went to Telco's Pimpri office for the interview. She behaved little rudely at the start of the interview because she was still angry on the discriminative policies of the company. Finally, after a long interview, she was told that she was successful. She was also explained why they have not employed any ladies on the shop floor of a factory. Sudha Murty requested to start it somewhere otherwise no woman will ever be able to work in your factories.

**4. Why does Sudha Murty have such great respect for JRD Tata?**

Sudha Murty was angry at seeing a job advertisement posted by the Tata company asking female candidates not to apply. It was her first experience of gender discrimination. She sent a postcard to JRD Tata to protest the discrimination against women in their companies. Sudha Murty claimed that there was nothing great about her writing a letter to JRD Tata, the great thing was

JRD read that postcard sent by a girl who was from a small town like Hubli. She considered JRD a great man, an extremely busy person, who valued one postcard written by a young girl seeking justice. Her love and respect for the house of Tatas remained undiminished by the passage of time. She always looked up JRD and considered him to be her role model- for his simplicity, generosity, kindness and the care he took for his employees.

**5. Describe Sudha Murty's feelings about Pune, and the impact that moving to Pune has had on her life.**

Sudha Murty posted the letter to JRD and forgot it. In less than ten days, she received a telegram stating that she had to appear for an interview at Telco's Pune based company at the company's expense. Initially she was not ready to go for the interview. Her hostel-mates told her that she should use the opportunity as a free trip to Pune during which she could buy sarees for her friends. She went to Telco's Pimpri office for the interview. She behaved little rudely at the beginning of the interview. After a long interview she was selected for the job. She had never thought she would take up a job in Pune. It was her first visit to Pune and she immediately fell in love with the city. She felt Pune as her hometown Hubli. Pune changed her life in many ways. She met a shy young man from Karnataka, they became good friends and finally got married. The city also gave her first job in prestigious Tata Group.

**6. Describe Sudha Murty's feelings about Pune, and the impact that moving to Pune has had on her life.**

In the essay 'Appro JRD' she recollects her memories about JRD Tata and writes about his persona. Present essay not only portrays the different facets of JRD's personality but also pictures how he influenced Sudha Murty's journey as an entrepreneur and philanthropist. She sent a postcard to JRD Tata to protest the discrimination against women in their companies which shows her courageous nature and confidence. She began her career with TELCO as the first female engineer to work on the shop floor of the company. She founded Infosys with her husband Narayan Murthy. Infosys is the second-largest IT service company in India today. In 1996, she started Infosys Foundation, a non-profit organization which supports programmes in the fields of health care rural development, education and art. She is also a prolific writer. She has published novels, short story collections, essays and travelogues in both Kannada and English.

**7. What did Sudha Murty's encounters with JRD Tata reveal about the later?**

Sudha Murty realized about the greatness of JRD Tata only after joining Telco. He was the uncrowned king of the Indian industry. Now she was scared to meet him, but she did not get an opportunity to meet him till she was transferred to Head Office at Bombay. One day she had to show some reports to the chairman Mr. Moolgaokar, in his office. At that time suddenly JRD walked in. That was the first time she saw 'Appro JRD'. JRD remarked it was nice that girls were getting into engineering in our country. After that, she used to see JRD on and off. One evening when she was alone in the parking lot, JRD waited there until her husband comes. She considered JRD as a great man, an extremely busy person, who valued one postcard written by a young girl seeking justice against the discrimination of women. Her love and respect for the house of Tatas remained undiminished by the passage of time. She always considered JRD to be her role model- for his simplicity, generosity, kindness and the care he took of his employees.

### Multiple Choice Questions

**1. Whose photographs does Sudha Murty have on her office wall?**

- A. her parents and her guru
- B. JRD Tata and Narayana Murty
- C. Narayan Murthy and her children
- D. JRD Tata and Jamsetji Tata

**2. What subject did Sudha Murty study at master's level?**

- A. Electronics Engineering
- B. Automobile Engineering
- C. Computer Science
- D. Software Development

**3. What about TELCO's job requirement notice angered Sudha Murty?**

- A. poor grammar and mistakes in punctuation
- B. discrimination against woman
- C. low salary being offered
- D. discrimination against people with no work experience

**4. What were Sudha Murty's reasons for attending TELCO's interview?**

- A. a free trip to Pune during which she could buy sarees for her friends
- B. gaining experience of job interviews and having her resume screened
- C. the prestige associated with a company owned by Tata Group
- D. the inducement of being the first female engineer to work with TELCO

**5. Looking back on her interview at TELCO, Sudha Murty is embarrassed of-**

- A. her inability to answer the technical question
- B. how she behaved at the start of the interview
- C. having been humiliated by the male interviewers
- D. her lack of knowledge about corporate world

**6. Why was Sudha Murty nervous during her first few encounters with JRD?**

- A. She was unsure whether he approved of a woman on the factory floor.
- B. She wondered if he remembered her postcard to him.
- C. She was uncomfortable about his superior manners.
- D. She didn't know how to address him.

**7. Why did Sudha Murty have to resign from TELCO?**

- A. She wanted to pursue Ph.D. in the USA.
- B. She disliked being the only woman on the factory floor
- C. She was beginning a new venture with her husband
- D. She was moving to Pune after her marriage.

**8. What advice did JRD Tata give Sudha Murty when she left TELCO?**

- A. to always have confidence and give back to society
- B. to never make rash decisions and to save for the future
- C. to be generous and take care of her employees
- D. to never let people in power discriminate against her

**9. What wish does Sudha Murty express towards the end of the essay?**

- A. that more factories would employ women
- B. that more girls would study engineering
- C. that JRD Tata were alive to see her company's success
- D. that more people respect JRD Tata the way she does

**10. What did JRD's eyes always remind Sudha Murty of?**

- A. The sky
- B. the sea
- C. his kindness
- D. her father's eyes

**Answer Key**

Question No	Correct Option	Question No	Correct Option	Question No	Correct Option	Question No	Correct Option
01	D	04	A	07	C	10	<b>A</b>
02	C	05	B	08	A	-----	-----
03	B	06	B	09	C	-----	-----

## 5. Dhirubhai Ambani

### Summary

Dhirubhai Ambani, an Indian entrepreneur and business tycoon, founded Reliance Industries. He started Reliance Industries with 50000 Rupees and by 2007 his Fortune exceeded 60 billion dollars. Dhirubhai was born on 28 December 1932 in *Chorwad*, Gujarat. His father was a school teacher supporting his wife and five children with a modest income. Dhirubhai used to skip school and spent time in market so that he could better understand the way people made money. After completing High School Education at the age of 16, Ambani left his village and family and went to Aden Yemen in search of living.

In Aden Ambani was working with the largest transnational trading firm, A. Besse & Co. He worked as a gas station attendant and as a dispatch clerk. It was a humble and honest start of his career. He and his wife *Kokilaben* saved as much money as they could. In 1958, nearly 10 years Dhirubhai Ambani returned to India with 50000 rupees.

Ambani set up a company at Bombay that imported and exported spices. Overtime the company expanded into the textile market and began to produce import and export polyester. Polyester was in great demand across Asian markets and soon the company began making a modest profit. In 1966, he set up his own textile manufacturing unit in Naroda Ahmedabad. Later he invested 50000 rupees in a new venture. He founded Reliance Industries.

Reliance Industries Limited or RIL operated in three segments: petrochemicals refining and oil and gas. overtime it branched out to include other segments such as textile, retail business, Telecom and broadband business etc. Ambani started to expand Reliance business with the help of public issues, equities and debentures.

In 1969, Ambani launched its first brand, 'Vimal'. 1977 saw Ambani's and Reliance's biggest breakthrough. Ambani managed to attract over 58000 investors in Reliance first IPO for initial public offering. The Indian stock market witnessed major activity after the company went public and Reliance became the markets favourite. By 2012, Reliance had expanded so greatly that its employees numbered over 85000 across India. The company itself accounted for almost 5% of India's Central Government total tax revenue. and Reliance itself became the first Indian company to be listed on a Fortune 500 list as one of the world's biggest companies by revenues.

In 1986, Ambani suffered a heart attack. Concerned about his health, he handed over the empire to his sons Mukesh and Anil. In 2002, Ambani passed away due to heart attack. His death saw a nation United in mourning, and thousands of people travelled to Mumbai to witness the funeral and paid their respect. When Dhirubhai passed away, his son's split Reliance Industries into *Reliance Industries Limited* and *Reliance Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group*. His sons, Mukesh and Anil took over the reins from Dhirubhai and have successfully kept up the vision of their father.

**Answer each of the following questions in short.**

**1. Why is Ambani's story a true 'rags to riches' tale?**

The life of Dhirubhai Ambani is a story of rags to riches his life stands as an inspiration for the young generation with a dream. In spite of no higher education, he was determined to succeed. He started to work as an attendant at a gas station and then served as a clerk in an oil company then moved to Mumbai. Dhirubhai invested 50000 rupees in a new venture, and he founded Reliance Industries. Overtime Reliance Industries branched out to include other segments such as textile retail business Telecom and broadband business etc. Ambani started to expand Reliance business with the help of public issues. Reliance raised money from the Indian public to equities and debentures. Later he turned his attention to stock market. He managed to attract over 58000 investors in Reliance first IPO for initial public offering. By the end of 1980, Reliance company had the largest number of stakeholders in the world. From selling *bhajias* to pilgrims, Ambani had gone on to occupying centre stage of the world's business markets. By 2012, Reliance had expanded so greatly that the company itself accounts for almost 5% of India's Central Government total tax revenue. Reliance became the first Indian company to be listed on a Fortune 500 list as one of the world's biggest companies by revenues. Thus, Ambani's story is a true 'rags to riches' tale.

**2. Describe the character of Dhirubhai Ambani.**

Good entrepreneurs usually have a family background in business. Great entrepreneurs usually have none and start from scratch. The life of Dhirubhai Ambani stands as an inspiration for the young generation with a dream. In spite of no higher education, he was determined to succeed. He started to work as an attendant at a gas station and then served as a clerk in an oil company then moved to Mumbai. Dhirubhai invested 50000 rupees in a new venture, and he founded Reliance Industries. Dhirubhai had sharp business acumen and was an adventurous person. He destroyed the business monopoly of chosen few Indians and paved way for entrepreneurship of common man with dreams. What brought him success was his determination to succeed at any cost, closely build-up of a dedicated team, street smartness and his big heart to share his success with his investors. He never let down any one in his life. Dhirubhai was as much a family man as he was a businessman. He was devoted to his family and its well-being. His children received all the proper grooming to take over the business Empire. His sons, Mukesh and Anil were highly educated with degrees from leading Educational Institutes. They took over the reins from Dhirubhai and have successfully kept up the vision of their father.

**3. Describe the history of Reliance Industries that is outlined in the essay.**

Ambani set up company in Bombay that imported and exported spices. Overtime the company expanded into the textile market and began to produce import and export polyester. Dhirubhai invested 50000 rupees in a new venture, and he founded Reliance Industries. Reliance Industries Limited or RIL operated in three segments: petrochemicals refining and oil and gas. Overtime it branched out to include other segments such as textile retail business Telecom and broadband business etc. Ambani started to expand Reliance business with the help of public issues. Reliance raised money from the Indian public to equities and debentures. In 1969, Dhirubhai introduced the *Vimal* range of fabrics. Later he turned his attention to stock market.

In 1977 he managed to attract over 58000 investors in Reliance first IPO for initial public offering. Ambani is business acumen paid off. The Indian stock market witnessed major activity after the company went public. By the end of 1980, Reliance company had the largest number of stakeholders in the world. From selling *bhajias* to pilgrims, Ambani had gone on to occupying centre stage of the world's business markets. By 2012, Reliance had expanded so greatly that the company itself accounts for almost 5% of India's Central Government total tax revenue. Reliance became the first Indian company to be listed on a Fortune 500 list as one of the world's biggest companies by revenues.

#### **4. Why was polyester a significant part of Ambani's life?**

Ambani founded company at Bombay that imported and exported spices. It was set up in Masjid Bunder of South Mumbai. Overtime the company expanded into the textile market and began to produce import and export polyester. This was a key decision made by Ambani who knew that polyester happened to be in great demand across Asian markets the decision paid off and soon the company began making a modest profit. Ambani started saving money and in 1966 he carried out two major operations. the first was to expand the company he set up his own textile manufacturing unit in Naroda Ahmedabad. for his second operation, he used the money he had saved to invest 50000 rupees in a new venture. he founded Reliance Industries. *The Polyester Prince*, a book written by the Scottish author *Hamish McDonald* depicts the fact that Polyester was a significant part of Ambani's life. Due to controversial content, it was not released in India. Later the Biographical film "Guru" depicted the life of Dhirubhai Ambani and his business of polyester.

#### **5. How did his experience at A. Besse & and Co. influences life?**

Dhirubhai Ambani was an Indian entrepreneur. He was responsible for rewriting Indian corporate history and building a truly Global corporate group. Ambani was born in *Chorwad* Gujarat. His father was a school teacher. Ambani often skipped the school and spent time in the market so that he could better understand the way people made money. Over the weekend he would try to sell *bhajias* to pilgrims in Mount Girnar. After completing his High School Education at the age of 16, Ambani left his village and family and went to Aden Yemen in search of a Living.

In Aden, Ambani was able to get two jobs with the largest transnational trading firm at the time A. Besse & and Co. He worked as a gas station attendant and as a dispatch clerk it was a humble and honest start of his career. Later he was promoted to maintain and manage the company's oil filling station port in Aden. It was during this time that Ambani came to appreciate the importance of power, money and influence and how all three mattered very little without a delicate human touch guiding them. In 1958, nearly 10 years after leaving Ambani returned to India with 50000 rupees. He started Reliance Industries with 50000 Rupees. His Fortune exceeded 60 billion dollars and his family was officially the second wealthiest family in the world. It is for this reason his life is truly rags to riches tale.

## **6. Describe Ambani's relationship with the public. Did he have his detractors and supporters?**

Dhirubhai Ambani was a legend in Indian business, who destroyed the business monopoly of chosen few Indians and paved way for entrepreneurship of common man with dreams. What brought him success was his determination, his dedicated team, and his big heart to share his success with his investors. He never let down any one in his life. Reliance witnessed its success since it went public. Dhirubhai managed to attract over 58000 investors in Reliance first IPO for initial public offering.

Dhirubhai's tremendous success in business created jealousy among the top business class. Detractors criticized him and tried to defame him and his family, but Dhirubhai stood firm in his determination. The accusations and criticism against him only motivated him to work harder. Dhirubhai emerged all the more powerful after every challenge he faced.

## **7. Explain how Ambani changed Indian corporate history?**

Dhirubhai Ambani was an Indian entrepreneur, He founded Reliance Industries. Reliance Industries Limited operated in three segments: petrochemicals refining and oil and gas. Overtime it branched out to include other segments such as textile retail business Telecom and broadband business etc. Ambani started to expand Reliance business with the help of public issues. Reliance raised money from the Indian public to equities and debentures. In 1969, Dhirubhai introduced the *Vimal* range of fabrics. Later he turned his attention to stock market. In 1977 he managed to attract over 58000 investors in Reliance first IPO for initial public offering. The Indian stock market witnessed major activity after the company went public. By the end of 1980, Reliance company had the largest number of stakeholders in the world.

From selling *bhajias* to pilgrims, Ambani had gone on to occupying centre stage of the world's business markets. By 2012, Reliance had expanded so greatly that the company itself accounts for almost 5% of India's Central Government total tax revenue. Reliance became the first Indian company to be listed on a Fortune 500 list as one of the world's biggest companies by revenues. Ambani was responsible for building India's largest private sector company and for rewriting Indian corporate history and building a truly Global corporate group.

## Multiple Choice Questions

**1. When was Dhirubhai Ambani born?**

- A. 28 December 1932
- B. B. 5 March 1932
- C. C. 10 August 1943
- D. D. 16 July 1938

**2. The birthplace of Dhirubhai Ambani is \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. Jamnagar
- B. Valsad
- C. Chorwad
- D. Gandhinagar

**3. Which was the first business he started in India?**

- A. Textiles
- B. Telecom
- C. Petrochemicals
- D. Spices

**4. The famous textile brand he started which became the household name**

- A. Raymonds
- B. Vimal
- C. Bombay Dyeing
- D. Arvind Ltd

**5. Dhirubhai Ambani started Reliance Industries with how many Rupees?**

- A. 10000 Rupees
- B. 50000 Rupees
- C. 15000 Rupees
- D. D. 20000 Rupees

**6. What happened to be in great demand across Asian market?**

- A. Silk
- B. Cotton
- C. Polyester
- D. Jute

**7. What year was the Ambani's biggest breakthrough?**

- A. 1966
- B. 1987
- C. 1965
- D. 1977

**8. What does an IPO stand for in the world of stock market?**

- A. Initial Public Offerings
- B. Interest Private Offer
- C. International Public Office
- D. Internet Public Offer

**9. Which of the following books depicts the life of Dhirubhai Ambani?**

- A. The Polyester Prince
- B. Road to Success
- C. You Can Win
- D. The Godfather

**10. As a child, Ambani often skipped School to.....**

- A. go watch movies
- B. go to the market for shopping
- C. go and observe sellers in the market
- D. go meet his friends

**11. Ambani's first job was as.....**

- A. a manager of an oil filling station
- B. a school teacher
- C. a gas station attendant
- D. the CEO of his company

**12. What according to Ambani, was the most important quality one could have?**

- A. Money                      B. Power                      C. Sensitivity                      D. Courage

**13. What were the three segments that RIL operated in?**

- A. Petrochemicals, Oil and Gas, Polyester                      B. Oil, Gas, refining  
 C. Oil and Gas, Refining, Petrochemicals                      D. Chemicals, Cotton, Oil and Gas

**14. by investing in public issues the public could...**

- A. control the company                      B. appoint a new CEO  
 C. Own a part of the company                      D. Decide the name of a company

**15. Why did Ambani not pay tax to the government?**

- A. he had figured out a way around it.                      B. he bribed the government  
 C. his profits were low so he didn't need to.                      D. the government decided not to tax him.

**16. What was Reliance Industries split into?**

- A. Reliance Industries Limited and Reliance Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group  
 B. Reliance Limited and Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group  
 C. Reliance Industries and Reliance Ambani Group  
 D. Reliance Industries Limited and Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group

**Answer Keys**

1	A		09	A
2	C		10	C
3	D		11	C
4	B		12	D
5	B		13	C
6	C		14	C
7	D		15	A
8	A		16	A

## 6. Kalpana Chawla

### Summary

Kalpana Chawla, India's first woman astronaut to go into space, was born in Karnal, India, on March 17, 1961, to parents Banarasi Lal Chawla and Sanjyoti Chawla. She was the youngest of four children. Her parents called her Montu. As a child, Chawla developed an interest in flying after first seeing a plane at around the age of three. She spent days with her father visiting her local flying club with her father and showed an interest in aviation while at school. During her earlier education in India, Chawla attended Tagore Bal Niketan, Karnal. The teachers helped in shaping of Kalpana. Kalpana was always amongst the top five students in her class. On hot summer nights, when the family would sleep in the open on coir cots, Kalpana would lose herself in the endless dark sky scattered with twinkling stars.

Kalpana completed her pre-degree from Dayal Singh College in Karnal and later convinced her parents who were apprehensive about sending her outside of the town to study. She obtained a degree in aeronautical engineering from Punjab Engineering College at Chandigarh. When selecting the course, professors tried to dissuade her, as there were limited opportunities for girls in India following this career path. However, she was adamant in selection of the stream at graduate level. At the PEC, Kalpana learnt about aircraft materials, propulsion and theoretical aerodynamics, which gave her a strong foundation for the future of study.

After completing her engineering in India, she immigrated to the United States. In 1982, she decided to attend the University of Texas at Arlington for MS program. In December of 1983, Kalpana married French -American Jean Pierre Harrison. She obtained her masters degree from the University of Texas and moved wither husband to Colorado, set in the breath taking Rocky Mountains. At first, she decided to do a Ph D in mechanical engineering but soon decided to change to aerospace engineering that had always been her passion.

After completing Ph. D. in 1988, Kalpana Chawla joined NASA Ames Research Center in California. She was offered a job as vice-president and research scientist with Oversight Methods, Inc., in Silicon Valley. She had always been passionate about dancing. She joined Abhinaya Dance Academy in San Jose where she learnt Bharatnatyam. She also applied to NASA Space Center to become an astronaut. Finally, she was informed that she was to appear for an interview and medical evaluation. She was among the 122 aspiring astronauts chosen from 2,962 applicants. Eventually, through her immense hard-work, she became one of the nineteen candidates selected to be members of NASA's fifteenth batch of astronauts.

In March 1995, Kalpana moved to Houston to begin her tough training programme at the NASA Center. At the end of a year, Kalpana was selected as a crew representative in the Astronaut Office Extravehicular Activity and Computer Branches. In November 1997, Kalpana was given the chance to go into space as one of the six crew members on board the Columbia shuttle's STS-87 mission.

In spite of her hectic schedule at NASA and the pressures of her life there, she never forgot her friends or the institutions that she had been associated with. She always kept in touch and took them along in her path of glory. Kalpana was a loyal friend who believed in lasting relationships and she steadfastly stood by people she had been close to at different times in her life. Other honors came to Kalpana in the years following her first voyage aboard the Columbia shuttle.

On 1 February 2003, the Columbia was ready to re-enter the earth's atmosphere. Suddenly and without warning, all communication with the Columbia snapped when it was at a height of 207,135, feet in the sky. The white trail of the shuttle streaking into the earth's atmosphere, which had been visible on television screens and to people in some areas, broke up into a series of white spots, and this was followed by loud boom. The Columbia carrying seven crew members on board had disintegrated while making its re-entry into the earth's atmosphere. There were no survivors.

Kalpana Chawla was a truly remarkable woman who presented a rare combination of a brilliant mind and an intensely humane spirit. Her courage to dream about what would have seemed unattainable to most as well as her determination and relentless perseverance in striving to achieve her goal were qualities that led her to an incredibly accomplished and meaningful life.

**Answer each of the following questions in short.**

**1.Examine one instance in Kalpana's life which exhibited her ability to overcome adverse conditions.**

In December 1983, Kalpana married French-American Jean Pierre Harrison who was among the first friends she had made on her arrival in the United States. Her conservative family was understandably upset about the marriage, but as on other occasions in her life when she took decisions on her own, Kalpana won their approval and blessings with her firm faith in what she believed was best for her. It was simply wonderful how she always managed to take her family along without allowing the slightest trace of rancour to spoil her relations with them.

**2. What kind of work did Kalpana Chawla do at the NASA Ames Research Center in California and at Oversight Methods in Silicon Valley?**

Kalpana Chawla completed her PhD in aerospace engineering in 1988 and joined the NASA Ames Research Center in California. Her work involved the simulation of complex airflows around aircraft such as the Harrier in 'ground effect'.

Meanwhile another exciting opportunity came to her in 1993. She was given a job as vice president and research scientist oversight methods, Inc., in Silicon Valley. There, she was put in charge of developing and implementing techniques for aerodynamic optimization. Her other major area of work was related to the reproduction of the effect of the loss of gravity on body parts. The research was done in the hope that its findings would help reduce the problems that astronauts commonly face in space because of not being able to coordinate their physical movements.

### **3. Write a Short note on Kalpana Chawla's experiences as an astronaut.**

Kalpana applied to the NASA Space Centre to become an astronaut giving expression to her ultimate dream, after a while she was informed by NASA that she was to appear for an interview and medical evaluation that could lead her to the job. She was among the 122 aspiring astronauts chosen from a total of 2962 applicants. Eventually Kalpana Chawla became one of the 19 candidates selected to be members of NASA's 15th batch of astronauts through her hard work. The training program at the NASA center comprised an introduction to all NASA centres, instruction in land and sea survival as well as and operating aircraft. In November 1997, Kalpana was given the chance to go into space as one of the six crew members on board the Columbia shuttle STS-87 mission.

Kalpana was never to forget her first sight of the earth from the shuttle thousands of miles in space. She was deeply impressed to realise that our planet is really only a very small part of the vast universe. She was also struck by the thought that in case the people living on earth don't make a serious effort to save its environment and natural resources, it may lead to complete destruction of planet. This feeling, as a nature enthusiast remained with her forever.

### **4. Describe Kalpana Chawla, not as a NASA representative, but as a human being.**

Born in Karnal, India, on March 17, 1962, to parents Banarasi Lal Chawla and Sanjyoti Chawla, Kalpana Chawla was the youngest of four children. Until she started school, Kalpana hadn't been formally named. Her parents called her Montu. During her earlier education in India, Kalpana attended Tagore Bal Niketan, Karnal. As a child, Kalpana developed an interest in flying after first seeing a plane at around the age of three. She spent days with her father visiting her local flying club with her father and showed an interest in aviation while at school. Kalpana obtained a degree in aeronautical engineering from Punjab Engineering College. When selecting the course, professors tried to dissuade her, as there were limited opportunities for girls in India following this career path. However, Kalpana was adamant that this was the subject for her.

After completing her engineering degree in India, Kalpana immigrated to the United States in the 1980s to continue her studies. She obtained her masters degree from the University of Texas and earned a doctorate in aerospace engineering from the University of Colorado in 1988. Kalpana was a loyal friend who believed in lasting relationships and she steadfastly stood by people she had been close to at different time in her life. Kalpana was a truly remarkable woman who presented a rare combination of brilliant mind and an intensely humane spirit. Her determination and relentless perseverance in striving to achieve her goal were qualities that led her to an incredibly accomplished and meaningful life.

### **5. 'Kalpana was a loyal friend who believed in lasting relationships and she steadfastly stood by people she had been close to at different time in her life'. Justify this statement using instances from her biography.**

It is indeed a mark of Kalpana's fineness as a person that in spite of her hectic schedule at NASA and the pressures of her life there, she never forgot her friends or the institutions that she had been associated with.

She always kept in touch and took them along in her path of glory. Thus, Kalpana took care to present autographed mementos that she had carried with her on her first space flight to all her friends as well as to her school, pre-degree and engineering colleges and to the universities that she had attended in the United States. Kalpana was a loyal friend who believed in lasting relationships and she steadfastly stood by people she had been close to at different times in her life.

**6. Describe how Kalpana Chawla was always able to convince her conservative family about her decisions. Point out specific instances.**

When Kalpana completed her pre-degree from Dayal Singh College in Karnal, she was immediately afterwards selected for admission to the Punjab Engineering College in Chandigarh. Her family was not at all ready to send her outside their town. However, with calm manner and quiet resolve, she succeeded in convincing her family that her chosen path was one she just had to tread upon.

In December 1983, Kalpana married French-American Jean Pierre Harrison who was among the first friends she had made on her arrival in the United States. Her conservative family was understandably upset about the marriage, but as on other occasions in her life when she took decisions on her own, Kalpana won their approval and blessings with her firm faith in what she believed was best for her. It was simply wonderful how she always managed to take her family along without allowing the slightest trace of rancour to spoil her relations with them.

**7. Kalpana Chawla was ‘a rare combination of a brilliant mind and an intensely humane spirit’**

**Discuss.**

Kalpana Chawla was a truly remarkable woman who presented a rare combination of a brilliant mind and an intensely humane spirit. Her courage to dream about what would have seemed unattainable to most as well as her determination and relentless perseverance in striving to achieve her goal were qualities that led her to an incredibly accomplished and meaningful life. The astronaut has left behind for her family, her nation and the world an invaluable legacy of faith in the ability of human beings to surmount all odds and find success in following a trail of continued seeking and adventure. Aeronautical engineer, research scientist, space traveller - Kalpana Chawla will indeed be remembered as all these but, even more significantly, she will remain a part of the world's heritage for the extraordinary will power and daring that she showed in her attempt to reach for the stars.

**Multiple Choice Questions**

**1. What was the special advantage that Kalpana Chawla's school had?**

- a. The school had good teachers.
- b. The school had a good library.
- C. The school offered many extracurricular activities.
- d. The school was close to her home.

**2. Why were her parents so apprehensive about Chawla attending undergraduate college?**

- a. They were uncomfortable with the idea of a girl studying beyond school.
- b. They didn't want her to move to another city.
- c. They didn't want her to study engineering, which was dominated by men.
- d. She was too weak to travel alone.

**3. Where did Kalpana Chawla do her postgraduation?**

- a. University of California
- b. Oxford University
- c. University of Texas
- d. Ames Research Center, California

**4. What did her decision to switch disciplines mid-PhD reveal about her?**

- a. her passion to excel at engineering
- b. her determination to always take the harder option
- c. her willingness to take risks in the pursuit of her goals
- d. her rebellious spirit

**5. She supported her school by...**

- a. donating money every year.
- b. sponsoring two students to visit NASA every year.
- c. giving tuitions to girls who wanted to pursue science.
- d. building a new school block

**6. Kalpana Chawla's choosing to continue as an astronaut even after having the choice to transition to ground crew was a mark of her...**

- a. curiosity and thirst for exploration.
- b. sincerity and commitment to her profession.
- c. desire to support her family financially.
- d. defiance of social expectations.

**7. Which of these tasks was not part of Chawla's responsibilities on board Columbia's STS-87 flight?**

- a. to monitor on-board experiments
- b. to monitor shuttle systems for issues
- c. to oversee the commander and pilot
- d. to operate the arm to retrieve launched satellites

**8. Which of these qualities is not mentioned in the essay in relation to Kalpana Chawla?**

- a. honesty
- b. perseverance
- c. daring
- d. generosity

**Answer Keys**

1	2	3	4	5
a	b	c	c	b
6	7	8		
b	b	a		

## 7. L.M Thapar

### Summary

The Thapar Group was established by Lala Karam Chand Thapar. Through the early years of Indian Independence, the Thapar Group proved to be one of the top ten business houses in the country. It was involved in the business segments such as paper, engineering, three-wheelers, tractors, chemicals, leather, bricks, and publishing, with BILT as its flagship company. After Lala Karam Chand's death in 1962, Lalit Mohan took over the Thapar Group. He was educated at The Doon School, a prestigious all-boys boarding school in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, that is often considered to be one of India's finest schools. He graduated in engineering from the University of California, USA, and was a member of the Indian National Academy of Engineering. Under L. M. Thapar's leadership, the Thapar Group ventured into agriculture. He utilized every opportunity that agribusiness offered and in due course it could become as big as paper business. He planned and established pulp mills in Malaysia and Vietnam. Later, L. M. Thapar visualized tremendous opportunity in the retail sector and branding one's products and enter the retail market. He served as president of Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industries of India (ASSOCHAM) which promotes the interests of trade and commerce in India. L. M. Thapar remained a bachelor. He was fond of good life and was known for being charming and polished. He was an avid art collector with an expensive personal gallery of some of the finest works of art. He was in command of impeccable English accent. He loved Indian vocal classical music. He was a good poker and bridge player and loved sports. He is described as a bon vivant personality owing to his natural inclination for art and music. Even after his death, he is fondly remembered by his family and friends for his great generosity of spirit and charming personality.

### Answer each of the following questions in short

**1. Write a note on the history and business of the Thapar Group, as presented in this essay.**

The Thapar Group was established by Lala Karam Chand Thapar. The group owned industrial powerhouses such as Ballarpur Industries Limited (BILT), India's largest manufacturer of writing and printing, Crompton Greaves, a leading manufacturer of consumer electricals, and JCT Mills, one of the largest producers of textiles in India. Orient Bank of Commerce and Orient Insurance which were subsequently nationalized. *The Pioneer* an English-language daily newspaper, Greaves Cotton, manufacturer of engines and heavy equipment and JCT Electronics (manufacturer of television picture tubes). Lalit Mohan Thapar, the third son of Karan Chand Thapar played a significant role in managing and expanding the Thapar corporate conglomerate. Through his persistent efforts and innovations, he took Thapar group of industries to a position of eminence. During the early years of Indian Independence, the Thapar Group was one of the top ten business houses in the country, involved in the business segments such as paper, engineering, three-wheelers, tractors, chemicals, leather, bricks, and publishing, with BILT as its flagship company.

**2. When did L. M. Thapar take over the Thapar Group? What changes did he bring to the company?**

Lalit Mohan Thapar was the third son of founder Karan Chand Thapar. He was educated at The Doon School, a prestigious all-boys boarding school in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, that is often considered to be one of India's finest schools. He graduated in engineering from the University of California, USA, and was a member of the Indian National Academy of Engineering. After Lala Karam Chand's death in 1962, Lalit Mohan took over the Thapar Group. Under L. M. Thapar's leadership, the Thapar Group ventured into agriculture. He utilized every opportunity that agribusiness offered and in due course it could become as big as paper business. He panned and established pulp mills in Malaysia and Vietnam. Later, L. M. Thapar visualized tremendous opportunity in the retail sector and branding one's products and enter the retail market. He served as president of Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industries of India (ASSOCHAM) which promotes the interests of trade and commerce in India.

**3. Describe L. M. Thapar's personality.**

Lalit Mohan Thapar was the third son of founder Karan Chand Thapar, a well-known Indian industrialist who headed Thapar group of industries. He was educated at The Doon School, a prestigious all-boys boarding school in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, that is often considered to be one of India's finest schools. He graduated in engineering from the University of California, USA, and was a member of the Indian National Academy of Engineering. After Lala Karam Chand's death in 1962, Lalit Mohan took over the Thapar Group. L. M. Thapar remained a bachelor. He was fond of good life and was known for being charming and polished. He was an avid art collector with an expensive personal gallery of some of the finest works of art. He was in command of impeccable English accent. He loved Indian vocal classical music. He was a good poker and bridge player and loved sports. He is described as a bon vivant personality owing to his natural inclination for art and music. Even after his death, he is fondly remembered by his family and friends for his great generosity of spirit and charming personality.

**4. What did L. M. Thapar contribute to Indian business?**

The Thapar Group was established by Lala Karam Chand Thapar. The group owned industrial powerhouses such as Ballarpur Industries Limited (BILT), India's largest manufacturer of writing and printing, Crompton Greaves, a leading manufacturer of consumer electricals, and JCT Mills, one of the largest producers of textiles in India. Through the early years of Indian Independence, the Thapar Group was one of the top ten business houses in the country, involved in the business segments such as paper, engineering, three-wheelers, tractors, chemicals, leather, bricks, and publishing, with BILT as its flagship company. After Lala Karam Chand's death in 1962, Lalit Mohan took over the Thapar Group. Under L. M. Thapar's leadership, the Thapar Group ventured into agriculture. He utilized every opportunity that agribusiness offered and in due course it could become as big as paper business. He panned and established pulp mills in Malaysia and Vietnam. Later, L. M. Thapar visualized tremendous opportunity in the retail sector and branding one's products and enter the retail market. He served as president of Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industries of India (ASSOCHAM) which promotes the interests of trade and commerce in India.

## Multiple Choice Questions

1. **Who established the Thapar Group of companies?**
  - a. Lalit Mohan Thapar
  - b. Brij Mohan Thapar
  - c. Karam Chand Thapar
  - d. Gautam Thapar
2. **What does Greaves Cotton Manufacture?**
  - a. fabric and textiles
  - b. consumer electricals
  - c. heavy equipment
  - d. printing paper
3. **Where did L.M.Thapar study engineering?**
  - a. The Doon School
  - b. University of Southern California
  - c. Indian National Academy of Engineering
  - d. Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology
4. **Which of the following Thapar Group of companies was subsequently nationalized?**
  - a. BILT
  - b. Oriental Insurance
  - c. Greaves Cotton
  - d. *The Pioneer*
5. **Which of the following companies is *not part of the Thapar group*?**
  - a. Crompton Greaves
  - b. LMT Mills
  - c. *The Pioneer*
  - d. JCT Electronics
6. **Why did the Thapar group ventured into agriculture?**
  - a. LMT saw tremendous opportunity in the retail sector
  - b. LMT recognized the threat of overseas competition
  - c. LMT saw the value of India's climate and the workforce
  - d. LMT understood the importance of branding.
7. **Why did L. M. Thapar planned to set up a pulp mill in Vietnam and Malaysia?**
  - a. He wanted a steady supply of raw material for BILT
  - b. He wanted to expand into South East Asia
  - c. He wanted to venture into agribusiness
  - d. He wanted to enter in retail market.
8. **What is ASSOCHAM?**
  - a. A consumer electricals manufacturer
  - b. An engineering company
  - c. A trade association
  - d. An Assam-based paper mill

9. From the information given in the essay, which of the following words do you think best describes L.M.Thapar?
- a. Kind
  - b. Adventurer
  - c. Laidback
  - d. Cultured

**Answer Keys**

1	2	3	4	5
c	c	b	b	b
6	7	8	9	
c	a	c	d	

## 8. Dirge

James Shirley

### Summary

A dirge is a song expressing lament and grief for the dead. In this excerpt, Shirley talks of the futility of taking pride in earthly glories and material riches as none of these bring relief at the hands of merciless death. The present poem has been originally written on the death of the mighty Greece hero, Ajax. The death of Ajax reminds the poet of the mortal nature of our existence.

In the first stanza, the poet speaks of the futility of the glory of war and victory. Death serves as a great leveler for all. Whether a king or a peasant, soldier or a slave all are subdued by death. It spares none. No one can escape from the icy hands of death. So, it is useless to boast of the glories of one's birth, caste, religion and position. These are just like shadows, not substantial. Everything, whether it is a sceptre and crown of a king or scythe and spade of a farmer, all become one with the dust eventually.

In the second stanza, the poet discusses people with power who achieve many material things. For example, kings with power of swords can conquer new places can expand their area of rule. To prove their authority, they kill people. In spite of being so powerful, sooner or later, they face death. With their power of swords, they fail to defeat death. Finally, in their life, they become powerless like a prisoner in a prison.

In the third stanza, the poet says that even if a person boasts of the rewards, he achieves in life, finally disappear when he leaves from this world. Death does not pay any attention to this. Even victorious people prove victim to death. In the end all ends to dust. Only good acts of the people are left behind. People are remembered through their actions even after they are buried in an undecorated tomb. Their actions give them fame.

### Answer the following questions in short

**1. "Death is the greatest leveller". Elaborate on how Shirley brings out the significance of this statement in this excerpt.**

The poem 'Dirge' has been originally written on the death of the mighty Greece hero Ajax. It is a funeral song sung on the death of the person. The death of Ajax, the Greek hero, reminds the poet of the mortal nature of our existence. In the first stanza, the poet speaks of the

futility of the glory of war and victory. Death serves as a great leveler for all. Whether a king or a peasant, soldier or a slave all are subdued by death. It spares none. No one can escape from the icy hands of death. So, it is useless to boast of the glories of one's birth, caste, religion and position. These are just like shadows, not substantial. Everything, whether it is a sceptre or a crown of a king or scythe and spade of a farmer, all become dust with the death.

## **2. What is Shirley's attitude towards royalty in the excerpt?**

Shirley has used royalty in his poem and personified death laying its icy hands on the kings. He stresses on the harshness of tools used in burial. Many words, such as crown, sceptre, garland, sword and armor, symbolize royalty, authority and power. These are the signs of war or battle. The poet says that taking pride in one's birth or state is useless. They are like a person's shadows, which lives with them till they are alive. For death all are the same. Death treats all living things big or small in the same way. It makes no difference among big, rich, great or small. In the second stanza, the poet says that people with power achieve many things. For example, kings with power of swords can conquer new places. They can expand their area of rule and can kill people. In spite of being so powerful, sooner or later, they face death. Even with the power of swords, they are unable to defeat death. Finally, they become powerless like a prisoner in a prison.

## **3. Who do you think Shirley is talking about in the second stanza? Provide examples from the text to support your answer.**

The poem Dirge has been originally written on the death of the mighty Greece hero Ajax. The death of Ajax reminds the poet of the mortal nature of man's existence. In the second stanza the poet stresses that people with power achieve many things. He gives the example of the mighty kings with swords who conquer new places. The success of such great warriors means nothing to death. The kings put in great efforts to defeat the enemy and rule over the newly conquered place. These kings readily kill armies of men to achieve victory. The powerful kings are soon punished for every wrong they did. They also have to face death sooner or later. The swords of these courageous kings cannot defeat Death. They have to surrender to it. Even the strongest of the conquerors is defeated by death. They become powerless before death and end up being its prisoner.

## **4. Write a note on the various ways in which Shirley portrays the power of death over mortals in the excerpt.**

In the beginning, the poet voices the futility of the glory of war and victory. Death serves as a great leveler for all. Whether a king or a peasant, soldier or a slave all are subdued by death. It spares none. Everything, whether it is a sceptre and crown of a king or scythe and spade of a farmer, all become one with the death. In the second stanza, the poet says that people with power too face death sooner or later. Even with their power of swords, they are unable to defeat death. Finally, in their life, they become powerless like a prisoner in a prison. In the third stanza, the poet tells that even if a person boasts of the rewards he achieves in his life, all disappear when he surrenders to death. Death does not pay any attention to this.

**5. What according to Shirley, is the only ‘substantial’ thing in life? Elaborate on the poet’s viewpoint, and add why you agree or disagree.**

According to Shirley death is the only substantial thing in life. The only thing which remains after death of a person is his just and noble deeds.

Shirley says that a man is remembered by his good actions. Therefore, we should always be right in our actions. If a person wishes to become immortal, then he should do such deeds that people remember him even after his death. Thus a man’s good actions can help him defeat the purpose of death.

Death crushes all to dust. But man’s good deeds are like the fragrance of flowers. Flowers fade away into dust but its fragrance remains behind. Similarly, the good deeds of a man prove motivational element to the others, even after his death. The good deeds keep a person alive in memories of others even after his death.

**Multiple Choice Questions**

**1. What is the meaning of a digre?**

- a. Death b. a funeral song c. a cold tomb d. sacrifice

**2. What is the tone of the poem *A Dirge*?**

- a. Fatalistic b. instructive c. melodramatic d. optimistic

**3. The glorious events in man’s life have been compared with?**

- a. aristocracy b.kings c. sceptre d. shadows

**4. Which figures have been given human qualities?**

- a. Fate and death b. fame and glory c. Sceptre and Crown d. scythe and spade

**5. The poet shows that \_\_\_\_\_ are made equal in death.**

- a. Kings and servants b. kings and peasants c. kings and sellers d. farmers and soldiers

**6. According to Shirley what are short lived?**

- a. Honour and pride b. successes and glories c. earthly success d. all of the above

**7. According to Shirley what do people remember?**

- a. our good deeds b. our achievements c. our great acts d our ashes

**8. Shirley has compared our good acts with \_\_\_\_\_**

- a. sweet smelling flowers b. ashes c. success d. smell

**9. Through various imagery, Shirley wishes to tell us that.....**

- a. death is a great leveler b. death is horrid c. death should be challenged d. success shall come in the end

**10. A victorious man becomes a victim when he faces \_\_\_\_\_**

- a. death b. aristocrats c. armed soldiers d. brave men

**11. What are scepter and crown symbols of?**

- a. poverty b. kings and rulers c. bravery d. tomb

**12. Which phrase shows that human beings don’t want to die?**

- a. a murmuring breadth b. murdering brave men c. pale captives d. mighty deed

13. What does 'cold tomb' symbolize?  
 a. dirge b. death c. fate d. fight
14. Death's altar is called 'purple' because \_\_\_\_\_  
 a. it makes people bleed b. it has blue colour mixed in it c. it is too grand in style d. it is covered with human blood
15. Why does the poet think that the glories of our blood and state are shadows?  
 a. because they are not concrete things b. because they shall be remembered c. because they are past d. because they are obtained with hard toil
16. Why does Shirley say that 'there is no armour against fate'?  
 a. as death comes to all b. as all have to fight with shields c. as the armour is not strong d. as all armours are defective
17. What does the phrase 'victor – victim' mean?  
 a. conquerer and the conquered b. the triumphant and the defeated c. the master and the slave d. all of them
18. Identify the figure of speech used in this line: 'Death lays his icy hand on kings'?  
 A synonym  
 B personification  
 C Alliteration  
 D metonymy
19. Who do you think Shirley is referring to as 'the poor crooked scythe and spade'?  
 A soldiers in war  
 B monarchs  
 C farmers and peasants  
 D noble men
20. What is meant by the phrase 'strong nerves'?  
 A a healthy person  
 B the courage to face difficulties  
 C Physical strength  
 D pride and glory
21. What is meant by the phrase 'stoop to fate'?  
 A give in to one's fate  
 B fight one's fate  
 C find out one's fate  
 D mourn one's fate
22. What are the 'actions of the just' compared to in the last line of the lyric?  
 A death  
 B brave deeds  
 C blood  
 D flowers
23. Who is the ultimate lord of all according to the poet?  
 A Time  
 B Death  
 C Life  
 D God
24. Which of the following best describes the tone of the poem?  
 A lighthearted  
 B nostalgic

- C sombre
- D pessimistic

25. A 'Dirge' is associated with.....

- A the struggle against one's fate
- B the power and glory of royalty
- C the victories of war
- D grief and death

**Answer Key**

Ques No	Correct Option	Ques No	Correct Option	Ques No	Correct Option	Ques No	Correct Option	Ques No	Correct Option
01	B	06	D	11	B	16	A	21	A
02	A	07	A	12	A	17	D	22	D
03	D	08	A	13	B	18	B	23	B
04	A	09	A	14	C	19	C	24	D
05	B	10	A	15	A	20	B	25	D

## The Mountain and the Squirrel

R.W. Emerson

### Summary

The poem *The Mountain and the Squirrel* is a wonderful composition by R. W. Emerson. It is in the form of dialogue between a mountain and a squirrel. The poem speaks about the strengths and weaknesses of the mountain and the squirrel. They fight each other to assert their superiority. But finally accept each other's significant role as the creations of the God. In order to make up a year and a sphere, all kinds of things and weather must be taken into account. The talents of both the mountain and squirrel are very different. If the squirrel cannot carry the forest on its back, the mountain cannot crack a tiny nut.

The poem begins with the speaker describing how a mountain and a squirrel got into an argument. They are fighting over the squirrel's place in the forest. The mountain is very big as compared to the squirrel. There are forests covering and surrounding it and having many places for the squirrel to live and hide. The mountain calls the squirrel 'a little prig'. The word is insulting as it means 'self-righteous'. Again the mountain calls the squirrel 'Bun'. On this, the squirrel replies with very clear words. She acknowledges that the mountain is very big and does not deny its existence. She tries to make the mountain acknowledge that all objects, creatures and people make it a whole by referring the words 'make up a year/ And a sphere'. She does not feel anything wrong with her occupying place on the mountain. Just as the mountain is large and has a great role to play, the squirrel is small as has an equal role to play. She accepts the truth that the mountain is much larger than her. She says further that she is much more 'spry'. It can move from one place to another very quickly which the mountain can't dream of. She tries to convince the mountain that they are equals in the world though they are not equal in size, speed and abilities. She admits that their talents are different. The mountain is able to carry forests on its back but cannot crack a nut like a squirrel. With these words she tries to make it clear that there is something about inability to complete the task on the part of everyone. So no one should boast about their abilities.

**Answer the following questions in about 100 words each**

### **1. Is the mountain justified in calling the squirrel 'a little prig'? Why?**

The mountain is not justified in calling the squirrel a little prig. The mountain calls the squirrel a little prig because the mountains to tease the squirrel. The mountain is too big as compared to the squirrel. But the squirrel had no inferiority complex for that. The squirrel had the self-respect. Although the squirrel is small, it is still energetic and lively. It can move from one place to another very quickly which the mountain can't dream of. The mountain is able to carry forests on its back but cannot crack a nut like a squirrel.

### **2. What are the different arguments that the squirrel uses to counter the remark of the mountain?**

The mountain called the squirrel 'a little prig'. But the squirrel had no inferiority complex for that. The squirrel defends itself against the big mountain. It says that though it is small, it is more lively and energetic. It can move from one place to another very quickly which the mountain

can't dream of. If it cannot carry forests on its back, the mountain also cannot crack a nut. They both have different talents.

**3. What was the cause of the fight between the mountain and the squirrel? Why do you think so?**

The main cause of the fight between the mountain and the squirrel is their size and ability. The huge mountain considers the tiny squirrel 'a little prig' and feels that the squirrel is insignificant. The squirrel replies to the mountain wisely. It says that though it is small, it is more lively and energetic than the mountain. While it is not as large as the mountain, the mountain is not even half as energetic as the squirrel. Squirrel can move from one place to another on mountain's track. If it cannot carry forests on its back, the mountain also cannot crack a nut. The mountain is immovable though it carries forests on its back.

**Multiple Choice Questions**

- 1. The poem *The Mountain and the Squirrel* is written in .....style.**
  - a. Conversational
  - b. Narrative
  - c. Persuasive
  - d. expository
- 2. What is the nature of the poem *The Mountain and the Squirrel*?**
  - a. Argumentative
  - b. Descriptive
  - c. Satirical
  - d. Ironical
- 3. What is moral of the poem *The Mountain and the Squirrel*?**
  - a. Some creatures are powerful.
  - b. Some creatures are superior.
  - c. All creatures are important.
  - d. Some creatures are very small.
- 4. By what name is the squirrel referred to in the poem *The Mountain and the Squirrel*?**
  - a. Track
  - b. Pretty
  - c. Sphere
  - d. Bun
- 5. What does the mountain call the squirrel?**
  - a. Little prig
  - b. Small prig
  - c. Tiny prig
  - d. Minor prig
- 6. 'You are doubtless very big', here the word 'You' stands for the .....?**
  - a. Squirrel
  - b. The poet
  - c. Mountain

- d. God
7. **‘And the former called the latter ‘little prig’, here ‘latter’ refers to .....?’**
- The poet
  - Mountain
  - God
  - Squirrel
8. **What must be taken together to make up a year and a sphere?**
- Mountain and squirrel
  - Little prig and bun
  - All sorts of things and weather
  - Track and nuts
9. **By nature, the squirrel in the poem is .....**
- Self-respected
  - Egoistic
  - Selfish
  - Self-centred
10. **To the squirrel, ‘largeness and smallness are two ..... concepts.**
- Equal
  - Opposite
  - Equal and opposite
  - Dissimilar
11. **The mountain and the squirrel are symbols of the .....**
- Creator’s vision of the universe
  - Animate and inanimate creatures
  - Moveable and immovable creatures
  - Active and passive creators
12. **The phrase ‘all is well and wisely put’ refers to the fact that God has put the .....**
- Right thing at the wrong place
  - Right thing at the right place
  - Wrong thing at the right place
  - Wrong thing at the wrong place

**Answer Keys**

1	2	3	4	5	6
a	a	c	d	a	c
7	8	9	10	11	12
d	c	a	c	a	b

## Annabel Lee

Edgar Allan Poe

### Summary

*Annabel Lee* is composed by the American poet Edgar Allan Poe. Annabel Lee's lover narrates the story in the poem. The narrator states that his love for Annabel Lee was so intense that they were still together even after her death. The poem deals with the death of a beautiful young woman who was the narrator's wife. A young man who characterises himself as a "child" narrates the poem. The poem was written after Poe's wife's demise. It is believed that it was written for her. It portrays the most tragic death of youth, beauty and innocence. The poem is composed in six stanzas.

The poem begins with the introduction of the narrator and Annabel Lee as lover and beloved. Many years ago, there was a kingdom near the sea. In this kingdom, there lived a young woman called Annabel Lee, whom the narrator suggests the reader might know. Annabel Lee, according to the narrator, has only ever thought of their love. They were children when they fell in love. Even though they were young, their love was unique and profound. Their love surpassed all conceptions of what love might be. Their love was so special that the angels of heaven were jealous and desirous of it. For this reason, Annabel Lee was killed by the wind from a cloud. She was then taken away by Annabel Lee's family members. They enclosed her in a tomb within the same kingdom. The narrator believes that the angels were unhappy in heaven because they saw their boundless love. They were so envious of his love for Annabel Lee that they sent the wind, which emerged from the clouds at night, to chill and kill her. But their love was more powerful than the love between people older and wiser than them. Furthermore, no angel from heaven or monster from the depths of the sea could ever be able to separate his soul from Annabel Lee's. The speaker dreams of his beloved whenever the moon shines. He can sense her glittering gaze as the stars rise. The narrator is heartbroken, yet he cannot renounce their love. He feels his soul is deeply connected to Annabel Lee's. Every night, he dreams about her and lies down alongside her grave with the sound of the sea coming from nearby. He refers to her as his "life" and "wife".

**Answer each of the following questions in short.**

**1. What is the theme of the poem 'Annabel Lee'?**

Poe manages to weave all kinds of different themes into "Annabel Lee." Love is the major theme of the poem. The poem tells the story of a young love tragedy. At its foundation, it is about a guy who loves a girl and refuses to quit loving her. Mortality of the body and immortality of pure love and soul are connected with the main theme. The themes of death and love are blended. The poem emphasises the triumph of love over death and how it can continue after death. He gives us a hint that Annabel's family does not accept their love. Not only were the adults in this poem against the young lovers, but also angels from heaven and devils from hell were against them. Love is represented as pure, eternal, and all-conquering. The speaker's love for Annabel Lee may have been short-lived, but it is still too strong to be overcome, even by death. The poem claims that true love is the strongest force on earth by expressing this deeply romanticised love.

**2. Read the poem aloud and identify instances of alliteration. What effects do the alliterative words convey?**

**Ans:** The recurrence of starting consonant sounds in two or more neighbouring words or syllables is known as alliteration. The opening verse of 'Annabel Lee' contains the first instance of alliteration. The m consonant sound is repeated in the first three lines: many, maiden, and may. In the fifth line, the term maiden comes once again. Lee, lived, love, and loved are all terms that start with the letter l in the poem. Alliterated terms beginning with the letter 'th' appear in the poem: 'thinking' and 'than.' The letter C is utilised in child again throughout the poem, as is the letter l with Lee. Poe uses the terms with and winged, which both start with the letter w. d in demons, down, and dissever, b in beams, bringing, lovely, but, bride, and dazzling, S in sounding, sea, C in came, cloud Poe creates appealing sound patterns with alliteration. When the lines of this poem are read or spoken aloud, they leave a lasting impression on the reader.

**3. Comment on the images used in the poem.**

A poem's elements use any of the five senses to conjure up a series of mental images. In 'Annabel Lee,' Poe employs imagery and diction to create a highly mystical and magical environment while conveying a narrative about passionate love and nature's creation of a great, but sometimes sad memory. A romantic image of a gorgeous girl appears in the poem. The first important image we see in the poem is the Kingdom. It appears several times in Poe's work, usually as part of the phrase 'a kingdom by the sea.' It appears to be there to give us a vivid image of a time and place

far away from our own. After 'highborn kinsman,' the term 'kingdom' appears. As a result, the kingdom may conjure up images of powerful and wealthy individuals. The image of the water became increasingly strong as if it were filled with devils that wanted to separate him from Annabel. It brings everything together and leaves us with the frightening image of the vast, lonely sea. This passage contains particularly powerful imagery of 'chilling' and 'killing.' We can practically feel the coolness of Annabel's body as life fades away when he talks of the wind 'chilling' her. The speaker then rhymes that word with 'killing,' which is the poem's harshest description of death.

#### **4. Note the repletion of phrases in the poem. What effect do refrains create in the poem?**

The line saying 'In a kingdom by the sea', which is repeated in every line, has a high quality. Poe uses this rhythmic pattern throughout the poem, maybe to allude to the rising and falling tides. He often creates eerie refrains by repeating crucial lines, such as 'in this kingdom by the sea' and 'my Annabel Lee' or 'my lovely Annabel Lee'. In every verse save the last two, 'In a kingdom by the sea' and 'In this kingdom by the sea' are used. Poe also repeats words or phrases inside a single line, such as 'many and many a year ago', 'we loved with a love that was more than love', and 'my dear—my darling'. Poe adds to the poem's rhythm by using alliteration, or the repeating of consonant sounds. In Stanza 2, for example, the "w" and "l" sounds are repeated in this line: "But we loved with a love that was more than love." Poe occasionally combines 'many and many', 'love and be loved', 'those who were older than we', 'out of a cloud by night'. The use of this word highlights 'the angels' dark envy' and 'their cunning scheming', which takes place at night. The phrases 'For the moon never beams without sending me dreams' and 'And the stars never rise but I feel the sparkling eyes', and 'In a kingdom by the sea' carry a connotation that the planet and surroundings back his longing for love in the poem. 'And so, throughout the night-tide, I lie down by the side,' adds to this interpretation. This sentence demonstrates how much the writer missed his girlfriend, as he followed her to her grave and slept by her side. The phrases demonstrate the depth of Annabel Lee's and the writer's affection.

#### **Multiple Choice Questions**

**1. Annabel Lee lived \_\_\_\_\_.**

- a. In the hills
- b. Near the sea
- c. Under the ground
- d. Under the sea

**2. The poet thinks \_\_\_\_\_ must be the reason Annabel Lee was taken away.**

- a. Envy
- b. Greed
- c. Pride
- d. Anger

**3. The narrator's feelings for Annabel Lee can best be described as**

- a. immature
- b. fleeting
- c. casual
- d. intense

**4. According to the narrator, how did Annabel Lee die?**

- a. strangers attacked her by the ocean
- b. she froze to death in a high wind
- c. the jealous angels sent a wind to chill her
- d. her jealous relatives killed her

**5. After her death, Annabel Lee is shut into a tomb by -**

- a. her husband
- b. the angels
- c. the demons
- d. her kinsmen (family)

**6. Which of the following phrases is repeated throughout the poem?**

- a. "Kingdom by the sea"
- b. "I and my Annabel Lee"
- c. "Of many far wiser than we"
- d. "In the sepulcher there by the sea"

**7. The poem's theme concerns feelings of -**

- a. delight
- b. love and loss
- c. pity
- d. regret

**8. In the poem, the word sepulchre means**

- a. a morgue
- b. a castle
- c. a tomb
- d. a moat

**9. Dreams are brought to the narrator by the -**

- a. moon
- b. stars
- c. earth
- d. sea

**10. From the poem, what can the reader conclude about the narrator?**

- a. He misses, Annabel Lee, but has moved on from her death
- b. His love for Annabel Lee has started to fade
- c. He is still greatly infatuated with Annabel Lee even after her death
- d. He wishes that he were dead in Annabel Lee's place

**Answer Keys**

1	2	3	4	5	6
B	a	d	c	d	a
7	8	9	10		
B	c	a	c		

## 11. A Lament

P B Shelley

### Summary

Percy Bysshe Shelley is regarded as one of the major English Romantic poets noted for his spirit of revolt, his lyrical genius and his powerful imagination. Inspired by French Revolution, he opposed all forms of cruelty and oppression. He was expelled from Oxford for publishing a tract entitled the Necessity of Atheism. Conservative English Society, unable to tolerate his radicalism, forced him to leave England permanently in disgust and despair and settled in Italy. His poetry shows a remarkably fine blending of idealistic message, precision of imagery and captivating melody and expresses his ardent faith in the perfectibility of humankind.

‘A Lament’ is a short lyrical poem consists ten lines only. The poem is rhymed as AABAB. The poem is written in the iambic foot. It is about lost time, lost youth and lost opportunity. The poem gives expression to a feeling of deep melancholy.

In stanza first, the poet expresses his grief. He feels he would not live long. He is without joy. The poet says that his world is without joy, his life is without happiness and his time is without pleasure to him. He says that he has come on the last steps of his life. He had been firm and strong but now he is trembling with weakness. The poet feels that he will never again get the lost joys of his youthfulness. The poet asserts that the lost days of the world of life and the lost time will never be back. However, he cherishes and feels nostalgic for the past. He grieves for what has been lost. He is not optimistic of getting the fortune back in the future. The poet believes that he has lost the prime of his life. He is hopeless that the lost prime days would ever come back. The second stanza continues the pessimistic tone by telling that joy has gone out of his days and nights. He also feels that the fresh spring, summer and winter will never back as delight has gone out of his life and he only has faint grieving heart. He has lost his joy forever. It will never return any more in his life.

The poet presents himself as completely broken and pessimistic. The poet feels utterly dispirited, dejected and disappointed with life. He thinks that a great change has taken place in the world and it seems that he does not want to go with that great change. This is the reason why he grieves over the past he spent, and wishes that the gone moments come again. But he knows

that time and tide never comes. Change is the rule of nature. Everything on this earth is subject to change. The born thing is destined to decay. The poem reminds the reader that nothing is permanent: everything begins, develops, grows old and then decays.

**Answer each of the following questions in short.**

**1. Comment on the theme and tone of Shelley's poem *The Lament*.**

The theme of poem is the grief over the past glory. The tone of the poem is pessimistic which is very much characteristic of P. B. Shelley. The poet asserts that the lost days of life and the lost time will never be back. However, he cherishes and feels nostalgic for the past. He only grieves for what has been lost and he is not optimistic of getting back in future. This tone of pessimism runs throughout the poem in both the stanzas. The poet believes that he has lost the prime of his life. He is hopeless that the lost prime days would ever come back. The second stanza continues the pessimistic tone by telling that joy has gone out of his days and nights. He also feels that the fresh spring, summer and winter will never back as delight has gone out of his life and he only has faint grieving heart.

**2. How does the poet treat time and youth in the poem? Why do you think they seem to be so important to poet?**

The poet is in utter despair. He has no desire to live more in this world. There was a time when the world was full of attraction for him. However, now that time is over. He is fed up with his life and feels that his death is approaching slowly and surely. He compares his life to a ladder and the poet imagines himself to be standing on its last step. He feels that the period allotted to him is coming to a close. He remembers the time when he used to stand firmly in his youth, but his legs are trembling like an old man. He is now shuddering at the thoughts of the troubles and difficulties against which the poet had fought so bravely in the past. He regrets that the freshness and delight in life and its experiences as he had in the past will not be returned to him now. The time has now gone forever, never to return.

**3. Analyse the nature imagery of the poem, and its appropriateness to the lyric's theme.**

Like the other romantic poets, Shelley had a deep and passionate love for nature. Nature is, indeed, one of the main themes of his poetry. Almost all his poems abound in Nature-imagery.

The major sources of his imagery is Nature or its four elements. By using images of natural seasons like spring, summer and winter he compares his past life that has previously filled him with delight, fail to do so now. He asserts in pessimistic tone that joy has gone out of his days and nights. He also feels that the fresh spring, summer and winter will never back as delight has gone out of his life and he only has faint grieving heart. And in this poem, he shows himself as completely broken and pessimistic.

**4. Explain the following lines with reference to context:**

**a. When will return the glory of your prime?**

This present line of poetry has been taken from the poem 'A Lament' composed by P B Shelley, a great romantic poet. In this line, the poet laments over his lost youth. The poet is sorrowful because he feels that he is standing on the last step of his life. He had a premonition that he would not live in this world for long. The poet compares his past time to the present time and he finds that he was able to face his difficulties in his youth but now he is unable to do that. The poet asks himself if the joyful days of his youth will return and then he realizes that the joyful days of his youth will never return so he is totally dejected. The ancient glory of the world will never return.

**b. Move my faint heart with grief, but with delight / No more- oh, never more!**

These lines of the poem have been taken from 'A Lament' composed by P B Shelley. In these lines, the poet is feeling sad and disappointed. He is incapable of enjoying the beauty of nature. The changing seasons have lost their beauty for the poet and they do not give rise to the feelings of delight which he once used to experience in the past now only adds feelings of sorrow and disappointment. It only intensifies his grief. The poet utterly feels dispirited, dejected and disappointed with life. To him great change seems to have taken place in the world.

**5. Comment on the form of the poem. Is it suitable for the subject chosen? If so, how does it complement the subject of the poem?**

'A Lament' is a poem consisting of two stanzas of five lines in each. The poem is rhymed as AABAB. The poem is written in the iambic foot. The poem, 'A Lament', by Shelley is another great short lyric, which consists of ten lines only. The subject of the poem is deep grief over the

loss of prime of life. Addressing the world, life and time the poet asserts they will never be the same. Joy and delight have left him forever and he is no longer experiences refreshing seasons. The lyric has a deep pessimistic tone which complements with the subject and its form. Such sad songs are always short and touch the hearts of the readers with their subtlety of thought. It is rightly said that our sweetest songs are those which tell us saddest thoughts. Hence form of the poem suits the subject complements it as well.

### **Multiple Choice Questions**

- 1. What does the title of the poem mean?**
  - a. a song of praise
  - b. a song of celebration
  - c. an expression of grief
  - d. an expression of horror
- 2. Whom does Shelley question in the first stanza?**
  - a. the country and his town
  - b. the world, life and time
  - c. his family
  - d. his friends
- 3. What fills the poet's heart with grief?**
  - a. night and day
  - b. days and months
  - c. spring , summer and winter
  - d. minutes and seconds
- 4. What is the primary emotion that comes through when one reads the poem?**
  - a. happiness
  - b. sorrow
  - c. anger
  - d. fear
- 5. According to the poet, the glory of past days will return...**
  - a. in some months' time
  - b. when winter arrives
  - c. when spring arrives
  - d. never again

- 6. What happens when various seasons arrive?**
- The poet experiences only grief.
  - The poet forgets his sorrows and enjoys his time.
  - The poet experiences delight.
  - The poet composes poems about the seasons.
- 7. Which of the following seasons are not mentioned in the poem?**
- Spring
  - Summer
  - Autumn
  - Winter
- 8. What is the refrain of the poem?**
- Softly , O softly
  - No more – Oh, never more!
  - O world! O life! O time!
  - Move my faint heart with grief
- 9. What is the author’s attitude toward the subject of the piece?**
- Apathetic
  - Mocking
  - Haughty
  - Forthright
- 10. The poem is rhymed as .....**
- AABAB.
  - BABAA
  - AABBA
  - AABBB

**Answer Key**

Question No	Correct Option	Question No	Correct Option
1	C	6	A
2	B	7	C
3	C	8	B
4	B	9	D
5	D	10	A