

SSC BOARD EXAMINATION
ENGLISH (H.L.) N - 004 (04)

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONNAIRE

Q.I [A] Answer any two of the following in about 10 lines each.

1) The lesson, 'Neither a Song nor Fiction' reveals the working of a housewife's tormented mind. Justify.

Ans.

Manorama, has been portrayed by the writer, Popati Hiranandani, as a young romantic girl in her teens, all enveloped in thoughts of love and romance. In spite of being married, she couldn't come out of her fantasy world. Her husband, being a realistic and practical man, could not fulfill her romantic desires. Being at home, while her husband was out at work, she could not justify his realistic approach to life and hence started imagining all possibilities as to why his reaction was not similar to hers. The strong possibility of another woman in his life crept into her vacant mind and thus she suspected every move, watched every step, kept him around her by all possible means and behaved very strangely towards him.

2) Why does Phatik's mother agree to send him to Calcutta with her brother?

Ans.

Phatik, as revealed by Tagore was very mischievous. He was the ring leader among his friends. Since he was not much interested in studies, he would spend his day roaming around, flying kites and playing pranks. His mother was afraid that this would lead to something serious. She was protective towards her younger son. Thinking that Phatik might cause harm to his younger brother, she readily agrees to send him to Calcutta with her brother possibly hoping that he would improve in his education and as a person too.

23) Describe the Sardar-Nehru relationship in the last quarter of 1950.

Ans.

There was definitely a certain amount of friction in the last quarter of 1950 in the Sardar-Nehru relationship. The Sardar felt that his powers were being menaced and his judgement questioned. The writer, Rajmohan Gandhi focuses on the Tibet issue and also on the merging of the princely states

into the Indian constitution. The Sardar was very much disappointed and frustrated by Nehru's interference. Nehru, too was aware of the pain the Sardar was going through. They could not do much to improve their relationship as the Sardar's health was deteriorating.

4) How does C.P. Snow portray Ramanujan's simplicity and humility of heart inspite ?

Ans.

Ramanujan was a self taught mathematical genius in a class of his own. Though he knew nothing of the modern rigour, he had an inborn talent and was honoured in England by being elected a fellow at the Trinity College and the Royal Society. But inspite of being a genius, Ramanujan was a simple and a humble man. This is portrayed in the lesson in his relationship with Hardy. His humility and simplicity in reflected in the manner in which he lived his life in Hardy's company.

5) Narrate the humour revealed in the lesson 'Questions Questions'.

Ans.

Parke Cummings with his humourous bent of mind reveals the questions put forth by his family. The manner in which he copes with the questions is quite humourous and fills the readers with laughter. The writer begins with his wife saying that she used to ask out of the blue questions. The questions she asks him like, "what do you think the cat did today ?" evokes laughter. His daughter puts forth horns of the dilemma questions and gives him alternatives. He has no way out but to five an answers. His son asks him hypothetical historical questions to prove his lack of knowledge. The questions are funny and the author too, with his sense of humour gives funny answers and does not seem to get irritated or annoyed by the questions asked by his quizzical family.

Q.I [B] Explain with reference to context any two of the following.

9) 'Believe, me sir, it is a beautiful creature'.

Ans.

This sentence occurs in the lesson 'The Tempest' by Charles and Mary Lamb. This line is spoken by Miranda to Prospero her father. When Prospero raises a tempest on the sea in order to avenge for the wrongs done by his brother Antonio and the Duke of Naples, Ferdinand the prince who is

lost, appears before Miranda and Prospero. Miranda had lived an isolated life on the island, had never ever seen a human being except her own father. The sight of the handsome prince Ferdinand brings her immense joy. She was filled with excitement and had instantly fallen in love with him.

21) 'But I know nothing about wells'

Ans.

This line occurs in the lesson 'Four Rupees' by R. K. Narayan. It is spoken by Ranga to the people of the bungalow who asked him to remove a brass pot from the well.

Ranga had to face an unexpected prospect of removing the brass pot from the well as he sat waiting for an opportunity to earn his day's living. He agreed to do the job in the hope of backing out. The offer given to him was more than he expected but the thought of going into a well, which he had never done before gave him the shivers. After having a peep into the well, he realised the danger of it all and hence refuses to attend to the servant.

1) 'It is shallow to display your private feelings in public'

Ans.

This line occurs in the lesson, 'Neither a song nor fiction' by Popati Hiranandani. Manorama expected her husband to be romantic and overtly expressive in his feelings towards her. But her husband being a simple and serious minded man could not fulfill her desires. He was of the opinion that one should not display or express one's private feelings in public.

6) 'His gaiety was not a wasteful luxury but a sound investment.'

Ans.

This line is taken from the lesson 'On Saying Please' by A.G.Gardiner. The writer here remarks on the bus conductor's cheerfulness and positive approach to life and his duty. His good nature, politeness, friendliness and cheerfulness contribute towards making his duty easier and his passengers comfortable. His attitude towards all people of every age group contributed to the smoothness of the performance of his duty.

18) 'A man of character is safe forever'.

Ans.

This sentence is taken from the lesson, 'The Secret of Work' by Swami Vivekanand. In the above quoted line, the writer tells us about the consequences of good and bad character in a man. According to the writer, if a man has formed a good character, he need not worry about the

influences around him. No amount of evil prevailing around would affect his character.

Q.I [C] Answer any one of the following in about 10 lines.

4) How did life turn out to be strange or fickle for Madame Loisel ?

Ans.

Madame Loisel always dreamed of being charming, attractive and sought after. She imagined to have all the comforts and luxuries of a wealthy person. She wanted the best, since she felt she was made for it. She had an opportunity to prove this at the party hosted by the Minister of Education, where she borrowed a seeming diamond necklace from her friend. But as ill luck would have it, she lost the diamond necklace and thereby had to struggle for ten long years to replace it. It was her misfortune though, that she who dreamed of having the best, at her service should get the worst in return.

12) What moral lessons to you learn from 'A Mad Tea Party' ?

Ans.

'A Mad Tea Party' is an absurd story but it does have hidden moral lessons. The story reveals the rudeness and incivility of the characters towards Alice. It surfaces the importance of time management in one's life. It also teaches us that we must avoid hurting others through our words and deeds and must be courteous and polite even to strangers. The lesson also reveals how codes of behaviour must be maintained in all our social dealings.

Q.II [A] Answer any two of the following in about 10 lines each.

14) 'Crossing the bar' reveals Lord Tennyson's optimistic approach to death.

Ans.

The poet, Lord Tennyson has depicted the theme of death through his poem, 'crossing the bar'. Throughout the poem, the poet has avoided the use of the word 'death'. He is aware of the 'fear' caused by the thought of death in the minds of people. He portrays the picture of death comparing it to a sea voyage a journey home wards. This strengthens and removes the thought that 'death is the end'. For Tennyson, it marks the beginning of a new life where he would meet the 'Pilot', that is God Almighty, on crossing the bar.

16) What are the effects of the three forms of beauty on man ? Substantiate your answer with reference to the poem 'The Rose of the World'.

Ans.

'The Rose of the World' by W.B. Yeats deals with the three forms of beauty, viz, Physical, Interior and Divine. The outward form of beauty has only brought harm and destruction to mankind. The beauty of the soul is rarely seen and hence it is lonely. Divine beauty exists in Nature created by God for man to enjoy but man has sadly not been touched by this form of beauty. Moreover, for the poet, his country, Ireland also represents beauty.

10) Why was the sight of London 'Upon Westminster Bridge' so touching to Wordsworth ?

Ans.

As Wordsworth was passing 'Upon Westminster Bridge' he was touched by the beauty, silence and peace of the city. The beauty of London at sunrise was glorious and magnificent. The air was pure and invigorating. The sky was smokeless as every thing looked clear, bright and beautiful. The entire city looked as though it was dressed in the bright garment of the morning rays of the sun. The river Thames was in silence since the people were still asleep. Hence the sight of London was very touching to Wordsworth since it was an entirely different picture that Wordsworth saw in the morning.

11) What kind of love does Shelley offer his beloved ?

Ans.

The poet, P.B. Shelley, believes in a love that is pure, divine and sacrificial. He does not accept the kind of love expressed by the world. It is more a vulgar or debased form of love. It would be better for him to be rejected rather than offer this form of love. He 'desire of the moth for the star', 'the night for the morrow' and 'the devotion to something afar'. His kind of love would not be rejected by the Almighty himself and he wants to know whether his beloved will accept the kind of love he is willing to offer.

20) How does religion bring about sanity to an otherwise insane society ?

Ans.

The landscape near the aerodrome offers a picture of a deteriorating nature and environment. The decaying edges marked by industries, work shops and tall chimneys offer a poor sight to an otherwise beautiful nature. Man has been progressive at the cost of nature's beauty. He seems to be gripped by insanity in the dull routine of life. The poet, Stephen Spender, beautifully describes how the church stands a witness to all the activities of

man. It is religion that offers stability to his mind in a world of chaos and confusion.

Q.II [B] Explain with reference to context any two of the following.

9) And sure in language strange she said, 'I love thee true !'

Ans.

These lines occur in the poem 'La Belle Dame Sans Merci' by John Keats. The knight wooed a beautiful lady whom he met in the meadows. She too, seemed to express her love for him in various ways. The knight is enamoured by her beauty and charms. He is convinced that she too loves him when she speaks through her gestures (and words which he fails to understand). Here he expresses certainty that she too loved him.

24) "This is because of sound habits in youth".

Ans.

This line occurs in the poem 'The Professor' by Nissim Ezekiel. The Professor is proud of his good health. He tells his student that though he is getting old he has no serious problems with his health, such as diabetes, blood pressure etc. And he owes his good health to the sound habits that he practised in his youth.

13) "Who dreamed that beauty passes like a dream ?"

Ans.

This line is taken from the poem, 'The Rose of the World' by W.B. Yeats. This line takes us by surprise. The poet here, stresses on the physical beauty or the outer appearance of a woman. He poses this question that contains truth. Beautiful people are seldom aware that their beauty would not last long. They bear a feeling of pride for the beauty they possess little knowing that this would fade as time passed. W.B. Yeats also suggests through the examples of Helen of Troy and Deirdre of Ireland, that this form of beauty leads to destruction and harm.

19) "Darkness or sunshine, Thy Element"

Ans.

This line is taken from 'The Fountain' by James Russel Lowell. The poet describes the fountain to be beautiful and glorious through these lines the poet tells us that the fountain is always at its best whether there is bright sunshine or darkness prevailing. The surrounding has no effect or creates no impact on the flow of the fountain.

21) "I hold with those who favour fire".

Ans.

This line occurs in the poem "Fire and Ice" by Robert Frost. Frost gives us an idea about how the world will end. According to him, there are two things capable of destroying the world, 'fire' and 'ice', symbolising human passion and hatred respectively. The poet suggests that he stands by the people who say the world will end in fire - hatred, as there is a log hatred existing among the people of the world.

Q.III A Write an essay of about 200 words on any one of the following.

If we want peace there is no need to prepare for war.

Visiting Raj Ghat, the memorial to Mahatma Gandhi in New Delhi, I bowed my head and thought of Gandhiji's brilliant spirit. I thought of his ceaseless struggles to douse the fires of hatred with water drawn from the springs of love. Above all, I thought of how lonely he was in his quest for peace.

To an ordinary mind, war conjures up images of glory and triumph, victory and drama. One thinks of a dashing general leading his troop into the battlefield without the fear of death or defeat. It is best if we leave this to our imagination only.

If we think of scholars and statesmen and their lasting contribution to civilisation and mankind we realise that victories in peace are more glorious satisfying, fulfilling and lasting than the victories of war.

Peace is not just an absence of war... it is a virtue, a state of heart. Wars are conceived in the mind, peace is conceived in the privacy of the heart. The noble thoughts of Jesus Christ, Swami Vivekanand and Guru Nanak did not die with them. They have penetrated through the mountains and travelled through the world. They enter into the hearts of people and inspire them to do good actions. The thoughts of Tyrants destroy innocents and terrorize humans.

Mikhail Nain a famous statesman of our time said, 'fight rather the things that cause the neighbours and you to fight? It is only our unsophisticated, childish, may devilish mind that will believe that war can bring peace... it never does... it never will.

"Talking peace is always better than talking war", Winston Churchill aptly remarked. And who would know better than he for he led Britain to victory only to find himself defeated in the hearts of the people he led.

If we really want peace there is no need to build up weapons for war, so let us not explode nuclear bombs, let us not spread communal hatred, let us not distinguish between people and their religion. That is not the true test of a

country's strength. Let spread the message of love, compassion and concern. A truly strong country is the one that is spiritually strong.

So let us give peace a chance because it is the only thing that gives all of us a chance.

3 Letter Writing

A letter to the editor of a newspaper requesting the Municipal authorities to undertake a cleanliness drive in the city.

6, Kunj Society,
Alkapuri,
Vadodara 390 005.
Dt. 4th Feb. 2004

To,
The Editor,
Times of India
Vadodara.

Sub : To request the Municipal authorities to undertake a cleanliness drive in the city.

Sir,

Our city Vadodara is renowned as the 'Sanskar Nagari' and also as the banyan city. It has beautiful historical monuments and broad roads. But it is now poorly maintained in terms of hygiene and cleanliness.

One can find heaps of garbage lying by the sides of the roads waiting for the municipal vans to clear it off. Day after day the heap grows into a mound frequented by pigs, dogs and stray cattle. It also becomes filthy and a breeding place for mosquitoes and insects. The fear of epidemic always hovers over the people living in various localities.

It is time that the Municipal authorities awaken and make their rounds of supervising and getting work done promptly on a regular basis.

I hope necessary action will be taken immediately.

Yours Faithfully,

XYZ

