

KENDRIYA VIDYALAY IIT CHENNAI

English
Class: X

Formative Assessment -3
Question Bank (16-17)

1. Read the following passage carefully:

(5 Marks)

The tree was young and strong and it took a long time to kill. It took two workmen with axes, two days, including tea breaks. Which without conscious irony, they took in the shade of the leafy branches of the tree they were chopping down. It was a Gulmohar I had planted 13 years ago, along with several other saplings, when Bunny and I moved into the National media centre. The NMC is built on a little over 22 acres and many hundreds of the local babul trees that used to cloak that part of the Haryana countryside like smoke from evening chullas must have been cut down to make way for the brick and cement of our colony. I'm not a tree hugger but still felt that some restitution was due. So Bunny and I planted several saplings.

The two gulmohars at the rear were foot high saplings when we put them in the soil. In a few years their branches aflame with scarlet flowers in summer, rose above the first floor window, flooding the room with afterglow and screening from view the ugly scars of new construction in what had once been open fields behind our house. I felt the smugness of satisfaction, of having done the right thing. I'd given back, in however small a way, a little bit of what we take away from the earth everyday, everywhere.

Righteousness invites its own revenge. The roots of one of the trees had spread, crushing the sewage system. The handyman gave us the choice of either cutting down the tree or its roots would endanger the foundations of the house.

Answer the following questions by selecting the most appropriate option from the ones given below:

- 1) **The irony in the first para is that the**
 - a) The tree was planted by the author but cut by the workmen
 - b) The workmen chopped the tree that gave them shade.
 - c) It took 13 years for the tree to grow
 - d) The author was not passionate about trees yet he planted them

- 2) **When the colony was settled, the author decided to**
 - a) make the outskirts greener
 - b) plant a few saplings around the house
 - c) sulk in depression
 - d) start a movement

- 3) **The feeling the newly grown gulmohar trees evoked in the author was of**
 - a) remorse
 - b) pride
 - c) self – satisfaction
 - d) regret

- 4) **The writer had to get the tree felled because**
 - a) he was being righteous
 - b) the house was in danger of being destroyed
 - c) the tree had grown too tall

- d) the sewage system was damaged

5) *Being righteous means*

- a) Doing things the correct way
- b) Being aware of your rights
- c) Following your heart
- d) Conscious of the ways of the world

2. Read the following passage carefully:

(5 Marks)

Ask any parent anywhere on the planet and they will tell you that there is nothing sinister, nothing as singularly depressing as Arpita's copy.

Now this is not just a copy where a tidy conscientious child writes in copious details about everything, taking care to label things in boxes and uses eighteen different coloured pencils while describing 'My favourite holiday'. This is actually a sinister plot hatched to make your parenting skills look bad by rival parents with way too much time, patience and colouring ability on their side. The child is merely an instrument; it is the parents who are graded.

The whole school evaluation process grades parents with a bewilderingly complex classification that involves stars, smileys, goods, very goods, keep it up. Are two smileys better than a 'good' and a 'keep it up'? And what about Arpita? What has she got?

Today the child is seen as an entity that is moldable and the role of the parent is to build a person out of a child. This puts tremendous responsibility on parents who believe that their actions determine their child's future and hence every small step becomes a BIG PROJECT where a minor mistake would make your child a dribbling sociopath tomorrow.

Hence the persistent belief that enough is not being done for the child in spite of the unfortunate truth that more than enough is being done to him. Children need to perform in order to make parents feel good about themselves. In that sense, not much has changed; children still become instruments for the realisation of some parental goals. If earlier getting Into Science was enough to make parents proud, now almost nothing is good enough. Ninety per cent is too little and one extra-curricular activity too basic. And yes, there is always an Arpita lurking somewhere with her wretched copy.

Answer the following questions by selecting the most appropriate option from the ones given below:

1) The aspect of parenting that has not changed over the years is

- a) Expectations from children by society
- b) Belief that nothing has changed
- c) Parents using children to realize their dreams.
- d) Parents doing the school assignments for their children

2) The word 'sinister' in Para 1 means:

- a) Sinful
- b) Complex
- c) Evil
- d) Bad

3) The role Arpita plays in the writer's life is that of

- a) someone who provides inspiration
- b) somebody who depresses her
- c) someone who pressurises her to do well

d) someone who competes with the writer

4) The writer is critical of the parents because

- a) they take their role very seriously
- b) nothing satisfies them
- c) at every step, they worry about their child's future
- d) all of the above

5) The tone of the passage is

- a) Encouraging
- b) remorseful
- c) mocking
- d) sympathetic

3. Read the following passage carefully:

(5 marks)

By the time our delayed train reached and I disembarked with my father and baby Lavanya, it was well past midnight. It was cold, dark and foggy. My husband, Manas, who was to receive us, was nowhere in sight. Soon the platform became deserted.

Then, a burly man approached us and offered to carry our bags. He wasn't wearing the usual porter's red shirt and tag, and though I was wary, my father decided to hire him. Leaving Lavanya and me with the man, my father went to look for Manas. I took a closer look at the man and felt apprehensive. He was big and hairy, his face was pock-marked and his eyes looked bloodshot.

Just then Lavanya, who had been sleeping in my arms, awoke, and turned to look at the porter. He gave her a playful smile and held out his arms. I thought she'd start crying and held her closer. But she smiled back and twisted herself out of my arms into his.

Now I was really scared. What if he ran away with my baby? He must have sensed my fear and, even before I reached out to take Lavanya back, he handed her to me. Turning around, he mumbled that though everyone was scared of him, yet my innocent baby had accepted him. His eyes had tears in them. I didn't know what to say.

At that moment my father returned with Manas. The man picked up our bags and walked towards the car park. As we followed him, I asked Manas to pay him a little extra. But, having put our luggage in the car, the man refused to take payment from us. Coming up to me, he placed his hand on my baby's head for a moment as if to say, 'God bless you!' and walked away.

Answer the following questions by choosing an appropriate option from those given below:

1. The author was apprehensive when a man approached her as

a. he was scary looking

b. her father was not with her

- c. he was drunk with bloodshot eyes
- d. her husband was nowhere in sight
2. The man refused payment because
- a. the money offered was less
- b. he was not a porter
- c. he sensed the woman's fears
- d. the baby had come to him
3. The man handed the baby back to the lady as
- a. he feared the baby would start crying
- b. she reached out for the baby
- c. he realized that she was scared
- d. his eyes had suddenly filled up with tears
4. This incident made the author realize that one should
- a. not be scared of strangers
- b. only take the services of a regular porter
- c. not allow strangers to handle their children
- d. not judge people by their appearances
5. 'Apprehensive' means
- a. appreciative
- b. fearful
- c. happy
- d. sad

Section B writing

4. **Imagine that you are the only Indian selected as part of a group of five students to participate on a visit to NASA space station. Write a letter to your friend anticipating about the trip in about 120 words.**
5. **There was a storm brewing outside and you were all alone at home. Suddenly the lights went out.....**

In about 150 words, write a story. You could use some of the phrases given below.

jumped in fright

disappeared in a flash

screamed in horror

scared the daylight out of me

to my relief

touched something eerie

Section C Grammar

5. **Complete the passage by choosing the correct option from those given in brackets:**

The city police (a) _____ decided to (b) _____ stern action against drivers (c) _____ attempt to overtake (d) _____ the left (e) _____ city roads. All drivers who (f) _____ this rule will be punished. The first offence will (g) _____ penalty. The second will incur (h) _____ of the driving license.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------|
| a. (i) had | (ii) has | (iii) have | (iv) is |
| b. (i) take | (ii) taking | (iii) too | (iv) taken |
| c. (i) whose | (ii) who | (iii) which | (iv) those |
| d. (i) in | (ii) to | (iii) over | (iv) from |
| e. (i) in | (ii) over | (iii) on | (iv) by |
| f. (i) vitiate | (ii) violate | (iii) violent | (iv) violence |
| g. (i) inviting | (ii) invitation | (iii) invite | (iv) invited |
| h. (i) cancelling | (ii) cancellation | (iii) cancel | (iv) cancelled |

2. Complete the following passage by filling in the blanks with ONE word only.

The Annual Sports Day function of Agra Public School was (a) _____ with great enthusiasm. The Director of Sports was the chief guest (b) _____ the occasion. He was (c) _____ by the principal and staff, as well as the Head boy and Head girl. The prizes were given (d) _____ by the chief guest's wife.

Rearrange the jumbled words and phrases to form meaningful sentence.

Alarming / is assuming / pollution / proportions / noise

Eg: Noise pollution is assuming alarming proportions.

1. Speeding care / it / could be / of the breaks / the screech / of a
2. Pollutes / as much as / noise / smoke, / our environment
3. Cause / noise / mental / and / illness / can / deafness
4. A person / the body / even while / sleeps / to noise, / reacts

2.Eg. feared by / snakes are / in our / worshipped / and / many / country

Ans. Snakes are worshipped and feared by many in our country.

- a. of the / are venomous / only / 300 out / species / 2700 known
- b. which is / yellow liquid / water / snake venom / 90% / is a
- c. expelled / poison gland / that is / it is / from the / a substance
- d. of thick / are / connective / these glands / made / tissue

Section D (Literature)

Read the extract and answer the following questions:

1. *This dream is all amiss interpreted ;
It was a vision fair and fortunate*

- (a) Who speaks these lines and to whom are they addressed ?
- (b) Who had misinterpreted the dream ?
- (c) What is the speaker's interpretation of the dream ?

2. *“And I had done a hellish thing,
And it would work'em woe:
For all averred, I had killed the bird
That made the breeze to blow.”*

- (a) Name the poem and the poet.

- (b) What is the 'hellish thing' referred to here?
 (c) What were the consequences they had to face as a result of the 'hellish thing'?

3. *The wedding-guest sat on a stone
 He cannot choose but hear
 And thus spake on that ancient man
 The bright-eyed Mariner*

- (a) What does the wedding 'guest's sitting on a stone'
 (b) Explain 'He cannot choose but hear'
 (c) What does 'bright eyed' mean?

4. *The very deep did rot: O Christ!
 That ever this should be !
 Yea, slimy things did crawl with legs
 Upon the slimy sea.*

- a) Who speaks the above lines? (1)
 b) What does the word 'deep' refer to ? How did it rot? (2)
 c) What do the last two lines suggest about the speaker's attitude towards nature?

5. *Antony: O, pardon me, thou bleeding piece of earth,
 That I am meek and gentle with these butchers!
 Thou art the ruins of the noblest man
 That ever lived in the tide of times.
 Woe to the hand that shed this costly blood!*

- a) Where is Antony at this time? (1)
 b) Why does Antony call Caesar's body 'thou bleeding piece of earth'? (2)
 c) How and when had Antony been 'meek and gentle with these butchers'? (

Answer in short

1. What did the sailors hang around the mariners neck and why?
2. Why does the Ancient Mariner stop and tell his tale to the Wedding Guest?
3. Why did John excitedly allow his wife to go back to her grandmother?
4. Though both Brutus and Antony address the public of Rome before Caesar's funeral, there is a basic difference between the two. Bring out this contrast.
5. What fearful dream of Caesar does Calpurnia see? What meaning does she derive?
6. What made Lavinia buy a Ouija board? How did the narrator react to her doing?
7. How did the writer's inspiration Bureau' function?
8. How did the 'Ouija board party' prove disastrous for John Hallock?
9. Which sight was seen by the traveller in the desert?
10. What does the line "I am Ozymandias , King of Kings / look upon my works, Mighty, and despair !" convey about Ozymandias?

Long answer

1. Imagine you are Lavinia and write a letter to your friend on the impact of Ouija board in your family life.
2. Brutus was indeed motivated by a passionate urge of patriotism when he joined in the conspiracy to kill Julius Caesar. Attempt a character sketch of Brutus as you can comprehend from his speech to the people of Rome.
