**INDIAN SCHOOL ALWADI AL KABIR**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH – 2023-24**

**CLASS XII-LITERATURE**

**COMPETENCY BASED QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE FOR ASSESSMENT 1**

1. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given 6

What I want should not be

confused

with total inactivity.

Life is what it is about;

I want no truck with death.

If we were not so single-minded

about keeping our lives moving,

and for once could do nothing,

perhaps a huge silence

might interrupt this sadness

of never understanding ourselves

and of threatening ourselves with death. (Keeping Quiet)

i Which of these does the speaker imply through the following lines:

***Life is what it is about;***

***I want no truck with death.***

A. Life is meant to be lived and death should not be the focus here.

B. Life is meant to teach us lessons and near-death experiences are not always bad.

C. Life is full of adventures and the fear of death should not stop us from exploring them all.

D. Life is full of many choices and thoughts about death should not be a point of consideration.

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ii Complete the given sentence appropriately.

Based on the extract, silence would help humanity to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

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iii What does the speaker mean when he describes people as 'single-minded'?

A. People who only work towards understanding themselves.

B. People who are driven by only one passion in their life.

C. People who only focus on rushing through their life.

D. People who can focus on only one task at a time.

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iv Justify the following statement as FALSE.

In the given extract, the speaker is ordering readers to do certain actions.

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v Based on the extract, how do you think the speaker feels about humanity?

Answer in one sentence.

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vi Observe how the lines in the poem break off at certain words. Give one reason why the poet has structured the lines in this manner.

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2. …I saw my mother,

beside me,

doze, open mouthed, her face

ashen like that

of a corpse and realised with

pain

that she was as old as she

looked but soon

put that thought away, and

looked out at Young Trees sprinting, the merry children spilling

out of their homes, ... (My Mother at Sixty-Six)

i Why does the poet compare her mother's face to a corpse? Answer in one sentence.

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ii What effect does the phrase 'open mouthed' have on the poem?

A. It builds a mood of surprise and shock in the poem.

B. It reveals the speaker's fear of her own death and mortality.

C. It adds to the imagery of the speaker's mother appearing dead.

D. It highlights the speaker's attempt at hiding her emotions from her mother.

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iii Complete the given sentence appropriately.

The contrast present in the given extract is between \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

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iv State a reason for the following.

The speaker looks out of the window while travelling with her mother.

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v Which of these phrases uses the same poetic device as the following line from the extract?

looked out at Young Trees sprinting...

A. that restaurant is as nice as the Big Fish

B. the pen became my highway to success

C. that fluffy cloud crying with sadness

D. the tall trees with many branches

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vi Why do you think the poet has placed the word 'pain' on a separate line? Give a reason.

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3. Read the given extract and answer the questions given.

The presidents of the New York Central and the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroads will swear on a stack of timetables that there are only two. But I say there are three, because I've been on the third level of the Grand Central Station. Yes, I've taken the obvious step: I talked to a psychiatrist friend of mine, among others. I told him about the third level at Grand Central Station, and he said it was a waking-dream wish fulfillment. He said I was unhappy. That made my wife kind of mad, but he explained that he meant the modern world is full of insecurity, fear, war, worry and all the rest of it, and that I just want to escape. Well, who doesn't? Everybody I know wants to escape, but they don't wander down into any third level at Grand Central Station.

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i Complete the given sentence appropriately. Unlike the two levels that have 'a stack of timetables' to prove their existence, the third level has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

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ii ***Yes, I've taken the obvious step.***

What is the narrator assuming that the reader is thinking when he says the above line?

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iii Which of these is an example of 'a waking-dream wish fulfillment' as described in the extract?

A. Meenal loses her book and swears that it is her enemy who stole it.

B. Milind claims that he was petting his beloved dog whom he lost a few years ago.

C. Malini tells everyone that she saw a Cheetah though she herself knows it is a lie.

D. Mrinal thinks that he saw a spaceship in the sky which later turned out to be a normal aircraft.

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iv Based on the extract, what does the narrator think about the psychiatrist's opinion?

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4. Read the given extracts and answer the questions given. 6

A. The old man was just as generous with his confidences as with his porridge and tobacco. The guest was informed at once that in his days of prosperity his host had been a crofter at Ramsjo Ironworks and had worked on the land. Now that he was no longer able to do day labour, it was his cow which supported him. Yes, that bossy was extraordinary. She could give milk for the creamery every day, and last month he had received all of thirty kronor in payment. The stranger must have seemed incredulous, for the old man got up and went to the window, took down a leather pouch which hung on a nail in the very window frame, and picked out three wrinkled ten-kronor bills.

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i Based on the extract, which of these can we infer about the old man?

A. He made more money at the creamery than as a crofter.

B. His occupation changed due to the limitations of old age.

C. His generosity increased as he became more prosperous in old age.

D. He preferred to earn by being his own boss rather than working under someone.

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ii What is the author implying when she compares the old man's confidences with his porridge and tobacco?

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iii Complete the given sentence appropriately.

***Based on the extract, we can infer that being a crofter paid the old man*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

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iv Which of these sentences uses 'supported' in the same way as the extract does?

A. The pillars supported the thick ceiling that was made completely of stone.

B. Raman supported his friend's decision to find a job that pays her more money.

C. Lalitha supported her mother by sending some money home on a regular basis.

D. Few people supported the policy while the majority of the voters were against it.

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v Why would the peddler have seemed 'incredulous'? State a reason.

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vi Justify any one trait of the old man that the extract reveals.

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***5. A crisis brings out our true capacity for compassion and kindness.***

Support the above statement using M. Hamel from 'The Last Lesson' as an example. State any one detail from the text.

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6. Imagine that John Keats meets someone who is feeling sad. What advice would he give to such a person? State any one feature of beauty from 'A Thing of Beauty' and relate the advice to it.

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7. How would a student’s learning experience be enhanced in the 'Students on Ice' programme as compared to studying only in a classroom? Analyse any one point. (Journey to the End of the Earth)

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