

www.readlearnexcel.com

# Most Important Questions

Long & Short 2026

Flamingo + Vistas

Class 12 English

और Exam में ऐसे लिखें



## FLAMINGO (PROSE) – Short Answer Questions

### ◆ The Last Lesson – Alphonse Daudet

1. Why was Franz afraid when he reached school late?
2. What made Franz realise the importance of his language?
3. Why was the classroom unusually quiet?
4. What was special about M. Hamel's last lesson?
5. What message did M. Hamel write on the blackboard?

### ◆ Lost Spring – Anees Jung

6. Why does Saheb look unhappy even after getting a job?

7. What is Mukesh's dream?
8. Why is Mukesh willing to become a mechanic?
9. What keeps the bangle makers in poverty?
10. What does the title *Lost Spring* suggest?

### ◆ **Deep Water – William Douglas**

11. What incident created fear of water in Douglas?
12. How did fear affect Douglas's life?
13. What method did the instructor use to train Douglas?
14. How did Douglas finally conquer his fear?
15. What lesson does the story convey?

### ◆ **Indigo – Louis Fischer**

16. Why did Rajkumar Shukla go to Gandhi?
17. How did Gandhi break the fear of peasants?
18. Why is Champaran important in India's freedom struggle?
19. What was the outcome of the inquiry commission?
20. What does Indigo reveal about civil disobedience?

### ◆ **Poets and Pancakes – Asokamitran**

21. Why was the make-up department called 'Pancake'?
22. What were the complaints of the office boy?

23. Why was Subbu important in Gemini Studios?

24. How did humour make the chapter interesting?

### ◆ **The Rattrap – Selma Lagerlöf**

25. Why does the peddler call the world a rattrap?

26. What made the peddler steal the money?

27. How did Edla change the peddler?

28. What message does the story give?

### ◆ **My Mother at Sixty-Six**

29. Why does the poet compare her mother's face to winter moon?

30. Why does the poet smile at the end?

31. What is the central fear of the poet?



## **VISTAS – Short Answer Questions**

### ◆ **The Third Level – Jack Finney**

32. What is the third level?

33. Why does Charley want to escape reality?

34. How does Sam explain Charley's experience?

35. What does the story suggest about escapism?

### ◆ **The Tiger King – Kalki**

36. Why was the king called the Tiger King?
37. What did the astrologer predict?
38. Why did the king marry a princess from a tiger-rich state?
39. How did the Tiger King die?
40. What is the irony in the story?

### ◆ **Journey to the End of the Earth – Tishani Doshi**

41. Why is Antarctica important?
42. What is Gondwana?
43. How does Antarctica act as a warning?
44. What message does the author give?

### ◆ **The Enemy – Pearl S. Buck**

45. Why did Dr. Sadao save the American soldier?
46. What dilemma does Dr. Sadao face?
47. How did Hana help the prisoner?
48. Why did the General fail to act?



## **POETRY – Short Answer Questions**

### ◆ **A Thing of Beauty – John Keats**

49. What is a thing of beauty?

50. How does beauty provide joy?

◆ **Aunt Jennifer's Tigers – Adrienne Rich**

51. What do tigers symbolise?

52. Why is Aunt Jennifer afraid?

◆ **My Mother at Sixty-Six – Kamala Das**

53. What does the poet fear?

54. What is the significance of the smile?

◆ **Keeping Quiet – Pablo Neruda**

55. What does the poet mean by 'keeping quiet'?

56. What is the message of the poem?

## Class 12 English

# LONG ANSWER WRITING 10 TIPS

-  Start with direct answer
-  Mention theme clearly
-  Use keywords from question
-  Write in 3 paragraphs
-  Add textual reference
-  Keep 120–150 words limit
-  Simple & clear language
-  No unnecessary story
-  Proper conclusion line
-  Revise in last 1 minute

## CBSE Class 12 English -

# LONG ANSWER PYQs



(One-Line Points)

Boards 2026 | Quick Revision

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>1</b> Peddler believes world is a giant rattrap.          |  Education gives Bama dignity and identity.      |
| <b>2</b> Kindness of Edla reforms the peddler.               |  Social awareness leads to self-respect.         |
| <b>3</b> Rajkumar Shukla fights for oppressed peasants.      |  Antarctica preserves Earth's climatic history. |
| <b>4</b> Champaran struggle shows power of persistence.      |  Human activities cause climate change.        |
| <b>5</b> Bama realises caste discrimination through brother. |  Antarctica acts as warning for mankind.       |
| <b>6</b> Education gives Bama dignity and identity.          |  Dr. Sadao saves enemy as doctor.              |
| <b>7</b> Social awareness leads to self-respect.             |  Humanity above patriotism.                    |
| <b>8</b> Antarctica preserves Earth's climatic history.      |  Human civilisation damages environment.       |
| <b>9</b> Human activities cause climate change.              |  Carbon emissions cause global warming.        |
| <b>10</b> Dr. Sadao saves enemy as doctor.                   |  Civil disobedience triumphed in Champaran.    |
| <b>11</b> Gandhi defied unjust orders peacefully.            |  Gandhi defied unjust orders peacefully.       |

- 👉 Character Sketch of Peddler – *The Rattrap*
- 👉 Gandhi in Champaran – *Indigo*
- 👉 Deep Water – Fear & Its Victory
- 👉 Going Places – Dreams vs Reality
- 👉 The Tiger King – Satire & Irony
- 👉 The Third Level – Reality vs Fantasy
- 👉 The Enemy – Doctor vs Patriot Conflict
- 👉 A Thing of Beauty – Theme & Message
- 👉 Aunt Jennifer's Tigers – Women Oppression
- 📖 Journey to the End of the Earth – Climate Change Theme

## 📖 HBSE Class 12 English 2024 – Long Answer Questions

### *(Section D – Literature)*

Q12. Answer any one question of the following in about 120–150 words : 5

(a) Eco's academic work has certain playful and personal quality about it. Comment.

(b) Comment on the appropriateness of the title '*The Last Lesson*'.

HBSE class 12 english 2024

---

Q13. Answer any one question of the following in about 120–150 words : 5

**(a) Do you think that the third level was a medium of escape for Charley ? Why ?**

**(b) The lesson, '*On The Face of It*', is an apt depiction of the loneliness and sense of alienation experienced by people on account of a disability. Explain.**

## **HBSE class 12 english 2024**

*(100–120 words | 3 Paragraphs)*

Antarctica is presented as a symbol of Earth's ancient past and a powerful warning for its future. The writer travels to Antarctica as part of the *Students on Ice* expedition, where she learns about the continent's geological history and its connection to the Gondwana supercontinent. The vast white landscape represents purity, yet it also hides fragile ecological systems.

The chapter highlights how human activities such as industrialisation, population growth and excessive carbon emissions are disturbing the natural balance. Melting ice caps, rising sea levels and changing climate patterns clearly show the effects of global warming. Even a small rise in temperature can cause serious environmental damage.

Thus, Antarctica becomes a warning bell for mankind. The author urges humans to reduce their carbon footprint and live responsibly. The chapter conveys that protecting nature today is essential for saving the future of our planet.

---

### **13 My Mother at Sixty-Six – Central Idea**

*(100–120 words | 3 Paragraphs)*

The poem expresses the poet's deep emotional bond with her ageing mother and her fear of separation. While travelling in a car, the poet notices her mother's pale face and compares it to a "late winter's moon," symbolising old age, weakness and approaching death. This sight fills the poet with sadness and anxiety.

The poet tries to divert her mind by looking outside at young children and energetic life, which contrasts sharply with her mother's condition. This contrast highlights the difference between youth and old age, life and decline. Yet, the fear of losing her mother remains constant.

At the end, the poet smiles and says “see you soon,” hiding her pain. The poem conveys love, insecurity and acceptance of life’s reality.

## ✓ **My Mother at Sixty-Six – Central Idea & Questions**

*(Kamala Das)*

The poem expresses the poet’s deep concern about her ageing mother. While travelling in a car, the poet notices her mother’s pale, weak face which looks like “a late winter’s moon.” This image symbolises old age, fading vitality and approaching death.

The poet tries to distract herself by looking outside at young trees and children playing. However, the fear of losing her mother continues to disturb her. When the poet looks at her mother again at the airport, she feels the same pain and anxiety.

The poem highlights the universal fear of separation and the bond between a mother and daughter. It conveys the message that ageing and death are inevitable, and we must learn to accept this harsh reality of life.

---

## ✓ **Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers – Women Oppression Theme**

*(Adrienne Rich)*

The poem portrays Aunt Jennifer as a victim of male domination and domestic oppression. Her trembling hands while stitching show her physical and emotional weakness. She is burdened by the responsibilities and restrictions imposed by her husband.

In contrast, the tigers she creates in embroidery are strong, fearless and free. They symbolise the desire for freedom and courage that Aunt Jennifer lacks in real life. The tigers prance confidently, unlike Aunt Jennifer who lives in fear.

Even after Aunt Jennifer’s death, the oppression will continue to haunt her, but the tigers will remain bold and proud. The poem highlights the suffering of women in patriarchal society and stresses the need for women’s empowerment.

---

## ✓ **A Thing of Beauty – Theme and Message**

*(John Keats)*

The poem celebrates the everlasting power of beauty in nature and art. According to Keats, beautiful things provide joy and peace and help us overcome sadness and despair. Examples such as the sun, moon, trees and clear streams show how nature refreshes the human spirit.

Beauty, for the poet, acts like a “bower quiet” that gives comfort and relaxation. It removes negativity and strengthens our bond with life. Beautiful stories and heroic deeds also inspire human beings.

The poem conveys that beauty is a permanent source of happiness. It encourages us to appreciate nature and noble actions, as they make life meaningful and worth living.

## ✓ **Journey to the End of the Earth – Climate Change Theme**

*(Journey to the End of the Earth – Tishani Doshi)*

Tishani Doshi undertakes a journey to Antarctica as part of the “Students on Ice” programme. Antarctica is the oldest and coldest continent and preserves the Earth’s climatic history. Through this journey, the author learns about Gondwana, the ancient supercontinent, and understands how life evolved on Earth over millions of years.

The chapter strongly highlights the issue of climate change. Human activities such as industrialisation, burning of fossil fuels and increasing carbon emissions have disturbed the natural balance. As a result, glaciers are melting, sea levels are rising and weather patterns are changing rapidly.

Antarctica acts as a warning for the future of mankind. The author stresses that even small human actions have serious consequences. The chapter conveys a powerful message that we must reduce our carbon footprint and protect the environment to ensure the survival of our planet.

## ✓ **The Enemy – Doctor vs Patriot Conflict**

*(The Enemy – Pearl S. Buck)*

Dr. Sadao Hoki is a Japanese surgeon who finds a wounded American soldier on the seashore during the war. Although the man is an enemy, Sadao’s professional duty as a doctor compels him to save his life. This creates a serious conflict between his role as a patriotic citizen and his responsibility as a healer.

Initially, even his wife Hana is frightened, and the servants leave the house in protest. However, Sadao cannot let a helpless man die. He performs a risky operation and nurses the soldier back to health, proving that humanity is above national hatred.

Later, Sadao helps the soldier escape to maintain his loyalty to his country. The story highlights the victory of human values over blind patriotism and shows the moral struggle within a sensitive human being.

## ✓ **The Third Level – Reality vs Fantasy**

*(The Third Level – Jack Finney)*

“The Third Level” explores the theme of escapism through the character of Charley, who discovers a mysterious third level at Grand Central Station. This third level represents a world of the past, specifically the year 1894, where life appears peaceful and simple. Charley feels uncomfortable with the pressures and insecurity of the modern world.

Charley believes that the third level offers an escape from anxiety, fear and responsibility. His friend Sam also disappears and is later believed to have settled in the past. This blurs the boundary between reality and imagination. Psychiatrists call Charley’s experience a “waking-dream wish fulfilment.”

The story suggests that people often seek refuge in fantasies when reality becomes harsh. However, escape cannot solve real problems. The lesson teaches us to face life bravely instead of running away from it.

### ✓ **The Tiger King – Satire & Irony**

*(The Tiger King – Kalki)*

The story is a powerful satire on the arrogance and foolishness of rulers. The Maharaja of Pratibandapuram is obsessed with killing one hundred tigers to disprove an astrologer’s prediction that a tiger would cause his death. His blind pride and misuse of royal power show how irresponsible rulers exploit nature and people.

Irony runs throughout the story. While the king succeeds in killing ninety-nine tigers, he finally dies because of a tiny wooden tiger toy. This unexpected ending highlights the irony of fate. The very thing he tried to destroy becomes the cause of his death.

Through humour and exaggeration, the author exposes the hollowness of authority. The story teaches that no one can escape destiny and that abuse of power ultimately leads to downfall.

### ✓ **Going Places – Dreams vs Reality**

*(Going Places – A. R. Barton)*

Sophie is a teenage girl who lives in a poor working-class family but dreams of a glamorous and successful life. She imagines becoming a fashion designer, owning a boutique or meeting famous people. Her dreams are unrealistic because they are not supported by planning or hard work. Sophie’s imagination helps her escape from her dull routine life.

Sophie becomes fascinated by Danny Casey, a young football star. She imagines meeting him and even tells her friend Jansie about it. However, Jansie is practical and understands that such dreams rarely come true. Sophie’s visit to the canal shows her deep desire to believe in her own fantasy world.

In the end, Sophie is forced to face reality. Her dreams remain unfulfilled, causing disappointment. The story highlights the contrast between dreams and reality and teaches that imagination without effort leads to frustration.

## ✓ **Deep Water – Fear & Its Victory**

*(Deep Water – William Douglas)*

William Douglas developed a deep fear of water after two terrifying incidents. First, he was knocked down by strong waves at a beach in California. Later, a bully threw him into the deep end of a swimming pool at the YMCA. These experiences filled him with panic and helplessness. As a result, he avoided swimming and any activity connected with water.

Douglas realised that fear was controlling his life. He decided to overcome it by taking professional swimming lessons. The instructor used a systematic method involving a rope, pulley and gradual practice. Step by step, Douglas learned breathing, floating and swimming techniques.

Finally, Douglas conquered his fear. He swam confidently in lakes and pools and tested himself in rivers. He learned that “all we have to fear is fear itself.” His victory shows that determination and perseverance can help us defeat even the strongest fears

## ✓ **Gandhi in Champaran**

*(Indigo – Louis Fischer)*

Gandhi went to Champaran after hearing about the sufferings of poor indigo farmers from Rajkumar Shukla. The peasants were forced to grow indigo on a part of their land and sell it at low prices. British planters exploited them under the unjust tinkathia system. Gandhi decided to investigate their problems despite official warnings.

When Gandhi reached Champaran, he was ordered to leave the district, but he politely disobeyed the order. His calm courage inspired thousands of peasants. Lawyers also supported him. Gandhi collected evidence from farmers and highlighted their grievances before the authorities.

As a result, the tinkathia system was abolished and farmers received partial refunds. More importantly, Gandhi taught peasants the lesson of courage and self-reliance. Champaran became a landmark in India’s freedom struggle and proved Gandhi as a true mass leader.

## ✓ **Character Sketch of the Peddler**

*(The Rattrap – Selma Lagerlöf)*

The peddler is a poor and lonely man who earns his living by selling rattraps. He considers the whole world as a big rattrap where people are trapped by greed, wealth and comfort. He lives a miserable life, begging and wandering from place to place. His bitter philosophy reflects his frustration and disappointment with society.

Though he appears dishonest, he is not evil by nature. Tempted by thirty kronor kept by the crofter, he steals the money and runs away. However, Edla Willmansson's kindness and hospitality touch his heart deeply. Her compassionate behaviour awakens his conscience and makes him feel ashamed of his wrongdoing.

In the end, the peddler reforms himself. He returns the stolen money and leaves a letter of apology along with a Christmas gift. This transformation proves that human beings can change when treated with love and understanding. The peddler finally emerges as a symbol of redemption and inner goodness.

## **12** Journey to the End of the Earth – Climate Change Theme

*(100–120 words | 3 Paragraphs)*

Antarctica is presented as a symbol of Earth's ancient past and a powerful warning for its future. The writer travels to Antarctica as part of the *Students on Ice* expedition, where she learns about the continent's geological history and its connection to the Gondwana supercontinent. The vast white landscape represents purity, yet it also hides fragile ecological systems.

The chapter highlights how human activities such as industrialisation, population growth and excessive carbon emissions are disturbing the natural balance. Melting ice caps, rising sea levels and changing climate patterns clearly show the effects of global warming. Even a small rise in temperature can cause serious environmental damage.

Thus, Antarctica becomes a warning bell for mankind. The author urges humans to reduce their carbon footprint and live responsibly. The chapter conveys that protecting nature today is essential for saving the future of our planet.

---

## **13** My Mother at Sixty-Six – Central Idea

*(100–120 words | 3 Paragraphs)*

The poem expresses the poet's deep emotional bond with her ageing mother and her fear of separation. While travelling in a car, the poet notices her mother's pale face and compares it to a "late winter's moon," symbolising old age, weakness and approaching death. This sight fills the poet with sadness and anxiety.

The poet tries to divert her mind by looking outside at young children and energetic life, which contrasts sharply with her mother's condition. This contrast highlights the difference between youth and old age, life and decline. Yet, the fear of losing her mother remains constant.

At the end, the poet smiles and says "see you soon," hiding her pain. The poem conveys love, insecurity and acceptance of life's reality.

## Q12 (a)

### **Aunt Jennifer's Tigers & A Thing of Beauty – Beauty and Art as Coping Mechanisms**

Both poems show how art and beauty help human beings cope with pain and suffering. In *Aunt Jennifer's Tigers*, Aunt Jennifer lives under constant oppression and fear caused by her unhappy marriage. Her trembling hands while stitching reveal her mental and emotional burden. However, through her embroidery, she creates tigers that are bold, fearless and free, reflecting her inner desire for strength.

Similarly, in *A Thing of Beauty*, John Keats explains that beautiful things in nature and art provide lasting joy. Images of the sun, moon, trees and clear streams bring peace and comfort to the human soul. Beauty acts as a "bower quiet" that removes sadness and despair.

Thus, both poets suggest that art and beauty offer emotional escape and healing. While Aunt Jennifer expresses her silent resistance through art, Keats celebrates beauty as a permanent source of hope and strength.

---

## Q12 (b)

### **The Rattrap & Indigo – Struggles and Human Response**

Both the rattrap peddler and Rajkumar Shukla face hardships, but their responses differ greatly. The peddler is a poor man who lives a lonely life and develops a cynical view of the world as a "rattrap." When tempted by thirty kronor, he steals due to desperation. However, Edla's kindness transforms him, and he reforms himself.

Rajkumar Shukla, on the other hand, is a poor sharecropper who bravely fights injustice. He persistently follows Gandhi and requests him to visit Champaran. His struggle is driven by a strong desire to free peasants from exploitation.

The peddler's struggle reflects personal poverty and moral conflict, while Shukla's struggle represents collective suffering and resistance. Together, they show that human character is shaped by circumstances, but compassion and determination can lead to positive change.

---

## Q13 (a)

### **Bama's Awareness and the Role of Education**

Bama is deeply grateful to her brother for opening her eyes to the discrimination faced by their community. As a child, she notices people from her caste being treated with disrespect, but she does not understand its meaning. Her brother explains that caste prejudice is responsible for their humiliation.

He advises Bama to focus on education as the only way to gain dignity and self-respect. He tells her that learning will help her earn respect in society and break the chains of oppression. Inspired by his words, Bama becomes determined to study hard.

Through this guidance, Bama develops confidence and awareness. The lesson shows that education empowers individuals to challenge social injustice and build their own identity.

---

## Q13 (b)

### **Journey to the End of the Earth – Environmental Awareness**

Tishani Doshi's journey to Antarctica proves to be a life-changing experience. She realises that Antarctica holds Earth's climatic history and reflects the delicate balance of nature. The continent's vast ice sheets reveal how life evolved from the ancient Gondwana landmass.

The author highlights how human activities such as industrialisation, population growth and carbon emissions are responsible for climate change. Melting glaciers and rising sea levels are clear signs of environmental damage.

Through her experience, Tishani understands the urgent need for responsible stewardship of the planet. She stresses reducing carbon footprint and adopting sustainable practices. The lesson conveys that protecting the environment today is essential for preserving the future of mankind.

## Q1 (A)

## **Douglas (Deep Water) & Mukesh (Lost Spring): Will, Courage and Determination**

Douglas and Mukesh are two characters who display strong willpower in different circumstances. Douglas develops a deep fear of water after being thrown into a swimming pool. This fear restricts his freedom and confidence. However, he refuses to accept weakness and decides to fight his fear.

Douglas shows determination by taking professional swimming lessons. The instructor trains him step by step, and Douglas practises patiently until he gains control over his body and mind. His final victory over fear proves his courage and perseverance.

Mukesh, a poor bangle-maker's son, also shows strong will. Unlike other children, he dreams of becoming a motor mechanic. Despite poverty and family pressure, he insists on learning a new trade. Both characters prove that strong will and determination can overcome difficult circumstances.

---

### **Q1 (B)**

#### **Nature as Inspiration in Keeping Quiet & A Thing of Beauty**

In *Keeping Quiet*, Pablo Neruda presents nature as a teacher of peace and harmony. He urges humans to pause, reflect and learn from nature's quietness. The earth teaches us how stillness leads to renewal and understanding.

Similarly, in *A Thing of Beauty*, John Keats describes nature as a permanent source of joy and strength. Beautiful objects like the sun, moon, trees and streams remove sadness and give spiritual comfort. Beauty acts as a "bower quiet" for the weary soul.

Both poets show that nature heals human suffering. Neruda emphasises silence and introspection, while Keats highlights beauty and imagination. Together, they present nature as a powerful force that restores hope, peace and emotional strength.

---

### **Q2 (A)**

#### **Dr. Sadao: Conflict Between Humanity and Patriotism**

Dr. Sadao faces a serious moral dilemma when he finds a wounded American soldier during wartime. As a Japanese citizen, he considers the soldier an enemy. As a doctor, he feels bound by his professional duty to save a life.

Despite fear of punishment and social pressure, Sadao decides to operate on the soldier. His wife Hana assists him, though servants leave the house in protest. This shows Sadao's courage to follow his conscience.

Later, to balance patriotism, Sadao helps the soldier escape instead of handing him over to authorities. His actions prove that humanity is above blind nationalism. The conflict elevates Sadao's character as a compassionate and morally strong individual.

---

## Q2 (B)

### **Journey to the End of the Earth – Realisation about Preserving Earth**

Tishani Doshi's visit to Antarctica as part of the Students on Ice programme becomes a transformative experience. Antarctica, the oldest continent, preserves Earth's climatic history and shows how life evolved from Gondwana.

The author realises that human activities like industrialisation and carbon emissions have disturbed nature's balance. Melting ice, rising sea levels and global warming threaten life on Earth.

Antarctica becomes a warning for the future. Tishani understands that humans must reduce their carbon footprint and adopt responsible lifestyles. The journey teaches her that preserving the Earth is essential for the survival of future generations.

### **13. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions, in 120–150 words : 1×5=5**

**(A)** Why did Dr. Sadao treat the American soldier, even though it was an unpatriotic act? Describe the difficulties faced by Dr. Sadao when he decided to help the enemy soldier. (*The Enemy*)

**OR**

**(B)** "If you want to test a man's character, give him power." Analyse the theme of *The Tiger King* in the light of the above quote. (*The Tiger King*)

## Q12 (A)

### **The Peddler (The Rattrap) & Office Boy (Poets and Pancakes)**

The peddler and the office boy are alike in their deep sense of frustration and social insecurity. The peddler lives a life of poverty and loneliness and develops a cynical philosophy that the world is a giant rattrap where people are trapped by material temptations. His bitterness is a

result of repeated rejection and neglect. Similarly, the office boy at Gemini Studios feels humiliated because his talent is ignored and his job offers no growth.

However, their responses differ. The peddler turns to theft and isolation, while the office boy silently nurtures resentment against Subbu, whom he wrongly considers responsible for his misery. The peddler ultimately undergoes transformation through Edla's kindness, whereas the office boy remains trapped in his bitterness. Both characters highlight how neglect and inequality breed frustration in individuals.

---

## Q12 (B)

### **William Douglas (Deep Water) & Mukesh (Lost Spring)**

William Douglas and Mukesh are examples of strong willpower and determination. Douglas develops a deep fear of water after a childhood incident, which affects his life severely. Instead of surrendering to fear, he resolves to overcome it through systematic training under a swimming instructor and by practising repeatedly. His persistence leads him to victory over fear.

Mukesh, born into a family of bangle-makers, dreams of becoming a motor mechanic. Unlike others who accept their fate, Mukesh dares to dream differently. Though poverty restricts him, he remains firm about learning a new skill.

While Douglas battles an internal fear and Mukesh fights social constraints, both show that determination and courage can help individuals rise above limitations and pursue their goals.

---

## Q13 (A)

### **Dr. Sadao – Humanity vs Patriotism (The Enemy)**

Dr. Sadao treats the wounded American soldier despite knowing it is an act of disloyalty to his nation. His foremost identity is that of a doctor, bound by the duty to save human life. When he finds the soldier bleeding on the shore, his professional conscience overpowers national loyalty.

Dr. Sadao faces several difficulties. His wife Hana initially hesitates to help. The servants leave the house in protest. He fears arrest or execution if discovered. Even the General, who promises help, fails to act. Despite these risks, Sadao shelters the soldier, operates on him, and later helps him escape.

His actions reveal that humanity is superior to blind patriotism. Dr. Sadao's moral courage elevates him as a compassionate and ethical individual.

---

## ✓ Q13 (B)

### The Tiger King – Power and Corruption

The quote “If you want to test a man’s character, give him power” is perfectly illustrated in *The Tiger King*. The Maharaja, after hearing the prophecy about his death by a tiger, becomes obsessed with killing tigers to defeat fate. As his power increases, so does his cruelty.

He orders mass killing of tigers, ignores public welfare, and even marries for political advantage to continue his hunting. His misuse of authority leads to environmental destruction and moral decline.

Ironically, despite all his efforts, he dies due to a wooden toy tiger, proving fate’s supremacy. The story satirises rulers who misuse power and become victims of their arrogance. Thus, power exposes the king’s selfish, tyrannical nature.

## ✓ Question 12

**12. Answer any one of the following two questions in 120 – 150 words : 1×5=5**

(a) In the poems ‘*Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers*’ by Adrienne Rich and ‘*A Thing of Beauty*’ by John Keats, how do the themes of beauty and art function as mechanisms for coping with pain and suffering ? Discuss how each poet uses imagery and symbolism to convey the power of art and beauty in transcending life’s hardships.

**OR**

(b) In the stories ‘*The Rattrap*’ by Selma Lagerlöf and ‘*Indigo*’ by Louis Fischer, both the rattrap peddler and Rajkumar Shukla face significant struggles. Compare and contrast their approaches to handling these challenges. How do their differing circumstances and decisions reflect their character and the broader social context ?

---

## ✓ Question 13

**13. Answer any one of the following two questions in 120 – 150 words : 1×5=5**

(a) Bama is grateful to her brother for raising her awareness about the discrimination faced by her community and for guiding her to pursue education to build her own identity and overcome the stigma associated with their marginalised status in society. Support your answer with textual evidence.

(On The Face Of It)

OR

(b) Tishani Doshi, after her transformative experience in Antarctica, understands the importance of environmental awareness, responsible stewardship and proactive efforts to combat climate change for the preservation of the planet. Support your answer with details from the lesson '*Journey to the end of the Earth*'.

## Q12 (a)

### **Aunt Jennifer's Tigers & A Thing of Beauty – Art, Beauty and Coping with Pain**

Both poems show how art and beauty help human beings cope with pain and suffering. In *Aunt Jennifer's Tigers*, Aunt Jennifer is trapped in an oppressive marriage. Her trembling hands while stitching reflect fear, mental burden and lifelong suffering. She cannot express her rebellion openly.

However, through embroidery, Aunt Jennifer creates tigers that are fearless, proud and free. These tigers symbolise her hidden desire for strength and independence. Her art becomes a silent medium to express emotions that she cannot voice.

Similarly, in *A Thing of Beauty*, John Keats presents beauty as a permanent source of joy. Images of the sun, moon, trees and clear streams give comfort and remove despair. Beauty acts as a "bower quiet" for the weary soul.

Thus, both poets show that art and beauty provide emotional healing and help humans endure life's hardships.

---

## Q12 (b)

### **The Rattrap & Indigo – Struggles and Human Response**

Both the rattrap peddler and Rajkumar Shukla face serious hardships, but their responses differ. The peddler lives in poverty and develops a cynical view that the world is a giant rattrap where people are trapped by temptations. His struggle is personal and psychological.

When he steals thirty kronor, he feels guilty and later reforms due to Edla's kindness. This shows that compassion can transform even a hardened person.

Rajkumar Shukla, on the other hand, suffers because of the exploitation of Champaran peasants. His struggle is social and collective. He persistently follows Gandhi and convinces him to visit Champaran.

The peddler represents individual suffering, while Shukla represents mass suffering. Both reflect courage shaped by circumstances and hope for change.

---

### **Q13 (a)**

#### **Bama, Her Brother and the Power of Education**

Bama becomes aware of caste discrimination through her brother's guidance. As a child, she notices an elder carrying food in a strange manner but does not understand the humiliation behind it.

Her brother explains that their community is considered "untouchable" and treated with disrespect. He tells Bama that education is the only way to gain dignity and self-respect. His words awaken her sense of injustice.

Inspired by him, Bama studies hard and performs well in school. Education gives her confidence and identity. She realises that knowledge can challenge social oppression.

Thus, Bama is grateful to her brother for opening her eyes and showing her the path of empowerment. The lesson highlights education as a tool for social transformation.

---

### **Q13 (b)**

#### **Journey to the End of the Earth – Environmental Awareness**

Tishani Doshi's visit to Antarctica becomes a transformative experience. Antarctica preserves Earth's climatic history and reveals how life evolved from the ancient Gondwana continent.

She realises that human activities such as industrialisation, population growth and carbon emissions have severely disturbed nature. Melting glaciers and rising sea levels are visible signs of climate change.

Antarctica acts as a warning for the future. The author understands the need for responsible stewardship of the planet. She stresses reducing carbon footprint and adopting sustainable lifestyles.

The journey teaches that protecting nature today is essential for preserving life on Earth. Environmental awareness and collective responsibility are necessary for humanity's survival.

- ◆ **Q12. Answer any one of the following in about 120 – 150 words :**

(a) *Dr. Sadao is torn between his duty as a doctor and his responsibility as a patriotic citizen. Elaborate.*

**OR**

(b) *How has human civilization impacted our environment? Comment with reference to the lesson "Journey to the End of the Earth".*

CBSE CLASS 12 ENGLISH 2023

---

◆ **Q13. Answer any one of the following in about 120 – 150 words :**

(a) *"Civil disobedience had triumphed for the first time in modern India." When and how did it happen ?*

**OR**

(b) *In the chapter 'Poets and Pancakes', the author has used gentle humour to point out human foibles. Pick out instances of this to show how it served to make the extract engaging.*

✓ **Q12 (a) Dr. Sadao is torn between his duty as a doctor and his responsibility as a patriotic citizen. Elaborate.**

Dr. Sadao, a Japanese surgeon, faces a serious moral conflict when he finds a wounded American prisoner on the beach. As a patriotic citizen of Japan, he knows that helping an enemy soldier is considered a crime. However, as a doctor, he believes that saving a human life is his foremost duty, regardless of nationality.

Though he initially considers handing the prisoner over to the authorities, his medical conscience does not allow him to let the man die. He operates on the soldier, hides him in his house, and provides treatment. This shows that humanity is stronger than blind nationalism in Dr. Sadao's character.

Thus, Dr. Sadao's dilemma highlights the struggle between professional ethics and patriotism. His final choice proves that compassion and human values rise above political boundaries, making him a morally elevated character.

---

## ✓ Q12 (b) How has human civilization impacted our environment? (Journey to the End of the Earth)

Human civilization has deeply damaged the natural environment through industrialisation, population growth, and excessive use of natural resources. In “Journey to the End of the Earth,” Tishani Doshi explains how carbon emissions, deforestation, and pollution have disturbed Earth’s ecological balance.

Antarctica acts as a mirror showing the consequences of human actions. The melting of ice sheets, rising sea levels, and changing climate patterns are clear warnings of global warming. The author links modern lifestyle with increasing environmental degradation.

The lesson conveys that humans are responsible for the present environmental crisis. If corrective steps are not taken, the future of mankind will be in danger. Thus, the chapter urges people to reduce their carbon footprint and live responsibly to protect the planet.

---

## ✓ Q13 (a) “Civil disobedience had triumphed for the first time in modern India.” When and how did it happen?

Civil disobedience first triumphed in Champaran when Mahatma Gandhi supported poor indigo farmers against British landlords. The farmers were forced to grow indigo and were treated cruelly by the British planters.

Gandhi defied official orders to leave Champaran and chose to stay to investigate the farmers’ problems. Thousands of peasants supported him, showing unity and courage. This peaceful defiance of unjust laws marked the success of civil disobedience.

As a result, the British authorities appointed an inquiry committee and accepted the farmers’ demands. This victory proved that non-violent resistance could defeat injustice, making it a historic moment in India’s freedom struggle.

---

## ✓ Q13 (b) Humour in *Poets and Pancakes*

In “Poets and Pancakes,” the author uses gentle humour to highlight the oddities of people working in the Gemini Studios. The office boy’s exaggerated complaints about his low salary and dreams of becoming a poet create a comic effect.

The portrayal of Subbu as a “yes-man” who could instantly compose stories and dialogues is also humorous. Similarly, the description of the make-up department and its excessive use of cosmetics adds light-hearted satire.

Through humour, the author exposes human weaknesses such as jealousy, ego, and ambition without sounding harsh. This humorous style makes the chapter engaging while revealing deeper truths about human nature.

## Q12 (a)

### Dr. Sadao’s Conflict: Doctor vs Patriot

#### Answer:

#### Introduction

Dr. Sadao, the protagonist of *The Enemy*, faces a deep moral dilemma between his duty as a Japanese patriot and his responsibility as a doctor.

#### Body Paragraph 1

When Dr. Sadao discovers a wounded American soldier on the beach, he knows that helping an enemy is punishable by death. Yet, his medical ethics do not allow him to leave a man to die. Though fearful of consequences, he decides to operate on the soldier and save his life.

#### Body Paragraph 2

Dr. Sadao’s actions show that humanity is more powerful than nationalism. Even when servants leave his house and he feels isolated, he continues to treat the prisoner. His decision to secretly help the soldier escape further proves his compassion.

#### Conclusion

Thus, Dr. Sadao’s character rises above narrow patriotism and represents universal human values.

#### Examiner Impression:

- ✓ Clear dilemma
  - ✓ Textual evidence
  - ✓ Moral conclusion
- 
- 

## Q12 (b)

## Human Impact on Environment (Journey to the End of the Earth)

 **Answer:**

### Introduction

In *Journey to the End of the Earth*, Tishani Doshi explains how modern human civilisation has caused serious environmental damage.

### Body Paragraph 1

Industrialisation, population explosion and carbon emissions have disturbed Earth's natural balance. Antarctica preserves the climatic history of the planet and shows clear signs of global warming through melting ice and rising temperatures.

### Body Paragraph 2

The author realises that even small human actions can lead to major environmental disasters. Antarctica serves as a warning that human greed and careless lifestyle are pushing the Earth towards destruction.

### Conclusion

The lesson urges mankind to act responsibly and reduce carbon footprint to protect the future of the planet.

 **Examiner Impression:**

- ✓ Cause → Effect
  - ✓ Example from Antarctica
  - ✓ Warning message
- 
- 

## Q13 (a)

### Triumph of Civil Disobedience – Indigo

 **Answer:**

### Introduction

Civil disobedience triumphed for the first time in Champaran under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi.

### Body Paragraph 1

British landlords forced poor farmers to grow indigo and exploited them badly. Gandhi defied the British order to leave Champaran and chose to investigate their problems.

### Body Paragraph 2

Thousands of peasants supported Gandhi peacefully. The British government had to form a committee and accept the farmers' demands.

### Conclusion

This victory proved that non-violent resistance is a powerful weapon against injustice.



### Examiner Impression:

- ✓ Event
  - ✓ Method
  - ✓ Result
- 
- 



## Q13 (b)

### Humour in Poets and Pancakes

#### Answer:

#### Introduction

*Poets and Pancakes* is rich in gentle humour and satire.

#### Body Paragraph 1

The office boy's exaggerated complaints about his job and his belief that he is a great poet create humour.

#### Body Paragraph 2

Characters like Subbu and the make-up department are described in a comic way, exposing jealousy and hypocrisy.

#### Conclusion

Humour makes the chapter entertaining while revealing human weaknesses.



### Examiner Impression:

- ✓ Example
- ✓ Technique
- ✓ Purpose

## **CBSE Class 12 English 2023**

### **Literature – Short Answer Questions (40–50 words each)**

◆ **Q10. Answer any five of the following in about 40–50 words each:**

1. What were Franz's feelings as he set out for school and why?
  2. What curious circle are the bangles-makers trapped in?
  3. What were Douglas's initial thoughts when he was pushed into the pool?
  4. Who was Edla Willmansson? Why did she visit the forge at night?
  5. Why did Sophie wish to delve more deeply in her brother's affections?
  6. Why do Aunt Jennifer's tigers not fear the tree?
- 

◆ **Q11. Answer any two of the following in about 40–50 words each:**

1. In what way did the infant King surprise the astrologers?
2. How does Mr. Lamb try to put Derry at ease when he entered Mr. Lamb's garden?
3. What did Charley find in his collection of first day covers?

### ◆ **CBSE / HBSE Class 12 English 2024**

(Section D – Literature | Short Answer Questions)

◆ **Flamingo (Prose)**

1. "This is your last French lesson."  
How did Franz react to this declaration of M. Hamel?  
HBSE class 12 english 2024
  2. Do you think Saheb was happy to work at the tea stall? Answer giving reasons.  
HBSE class 12 english 2024
  3. How was the peddler treated at the crofter's cottage?  
HBSE class 12 english 2024
  4. What does Umberto Eco mean by the concept of 'Interstices' in our lives?  
HBSE class 12 english 2024
  5. Subbu is described as a many-sided genius. List four of his special abilities.  
HBSE class 12 english 2024
- 

### ♦ Poetry

6. What does the line, "Therefore are we wreathing a flowery band to bind us to earth" suggest to you?  
HBSE class 12 english 2024
  7. Why do you think Aunt Jennifer created animals that are so different from her own character? What might the poet be suggesting through this difference?  
HBSE class 12 english 2024
  8. Explain: "soothe them out of their wits" with reference to the poem *The Roadside Stand*.  
HBSE class 12 english 2024
- 

### ♦ Vistas

9. How did the Maharaja overcome the difficulty a high-ranking British officer created?  
HBSE class 12 english 2024
10. Why was Dr. Sadao being kept in Japan and not sent abroad with the troops?  
HBSE class 12 english 2024
11. What did Zitkala-Sa feel when her long hair was cut?  
HBSE class 12 english 2024
12. Why was Tishani Doshi filled with relief and wonder when she set foot on the Antarctic continent?  
HBSE class 12 english 2024

## CBSE / HBSE Class 12 English 2024

(Section D – Literature | Short Answer Questions)

### ♦ Flamingo (Prose)

1. "This is your last French lesson."  
How did Franz react to this declaration of M. Hamel?  
HBSE class 12 english 2024
  2. Do you think Saheb was happy to work at the tea stall? Answer giving reasons.  
HBSE class 12 english 2024
  3. How was the peddler treated at the crofter's cottage?  
HBSE class 12 english 2024
  4. What does Umberto Eco mean by the concept of 'Interstices' in our lives?  
HBSE class 12 english 2024
  5. Subbu is described as a many-sided genius. List four of his special abilities.  
HBSE class 12 english 2024
- 

### ◆ Poetry

6. What does the line, "Therefore are we wreathing a flowery band to bind us to earth" suggest to you?  
HBSE class 12 english 2024
  7. Why do you think Aunt Jennifer created animals that are so different from her own character? What might the poet be suggesting through this difference?  
HBSE class 12 english 2024
  8. Explain: "soothe them out of their wits" with reference to the poem *The Roadside Stand*.  
HBSE class 12 english 2024
- 

### ◆ Vistas

9. How did the Maharaja overcome the difficulty a high-ranking British officer created?  
HBSE class 12 english 2024
10. Why was Dr. Sadao being kept in Japan and not sent abroad with the troops?  
HBSE class 12 english 2024
11. What did Zitkala-Sa feel when her long hair was cut?  
HBSE class 12 english 2024
12. Why was Tishani Doshi filled with relief and wonder when she set foot on the Antarctic continent?  
HBSE class 12 english 2024

## What This Shows (Important Insight)

From the readable documents:

- **Repeated focus on:**
  - *The Last Lesson*
  - *Lost Spring*
  - *The Rattrap*
  - *Indigo*
  - *Poets and Pancakes*
  - *Aunt Jennifer's Tigers*
  - *A Thing of Beauty*
  - *The Tiger King*
  - *The Enemy*
  - *Journey to the End of the Earth*

## **Question 10 (Short Answer – Poetry)**

**10. Answer any two questions from the following in about 40-50 words each :**  
**2 × 3 = 6**

- (a) What does the line, “*Therefore are we wreathing a flowery band to bind us to earth*” suggest to you ?
- (b) Why do you think Aunt Jennifer created animals that are so different from her own character ? What might the poet be suggesting, through this difference ?
- (c) Explain : “*soothe them out of them wits*” with reference to the poem “**The Roadside Stand**”.
- 

## **Question 11 (Short Answer – Prose)**

**11. Answer any three questions of the following in about 40-50 words each :**  
**3 × 2 = 6**

- (a) How did the Maharaja overcome the difficulty a high-ranking British Officer created ?
- (b) Why was Dr. Sadao being kept in Japan and not sent abroad with the troops ?
- (c) What did Zitkala-Sa feel when her long hair was cut ?

(d) Why was Tishani Doshi filled with relief and wonder when he set foot on the Antarctic continent ?

### **Question 10 (Poetry – Short Answer)**

Answer any two questions in about 40–50 words each : (2 × 3 = 6)

(a) What does the line, “*Therefore are we wreathing a flowery band to bind us to earth*” suggest to you?

(b) Why do you think Aunt Jennifer created animals that are so different from her own character? What might the poet be suggesting through this difference?

(c) Explain: “*soothe them out of their wits*” with reference to the poem *The Roadside Stand*.

HBSE class 12 english 2024

---

### **Question 11 (Prose / Vistas – Short Answer)**

Answer any three questions in about 40–50 words each : (3 × 2 = 6)

(a) How did the Maharaja overcome the difficulty a high-ranking British Officer created?

(b) Why was Dr. Sadao being kept in Japan and not sent abroad with the troops?

(c) What did Zitkala-Sa feel when her long hair was cut?

(d) Why was Tishani Doshi filled with relief and wonder when she set foot on the Antarctic continent?

## **Mot QUESTION 10 – SHORT ANSWERS (40–50 WORDS EACH)**

---

#### **◆ (i) What made the peddler finally change his ways? (The Rattrap)**

The peddler changes due to Edla Willmansson’s kindness and trust. She treats him with respect despite knowing his past. Her compassion awakens his conscience, making him realise that goodness exists. This moral awakening inspires him to return the stolen money and live honestly.

---

#### **◆ (ii) Merry children vs mother (My Mother at Sixty-Six)**

The poet contrasts lively children with her ageing mother to highlight the passage of time. The children symbolise youth and energy, while her mother represents decay and approaching death. This contrast intensifies the poet's fear of separation and loss.

---

◆ **(iii) Silence as introspection (Keeping Quiet)**

Silence symbolises a pause from harmful activity and noisy routine. The poet suggests that in silence, people can reflect on their actions, understand themselves, and realise the importance of peace. It becomes a moment of spiritual and emotional renewal.

---

◆ **(iv) "A thing of beauty is a joy forever"**

The line suggests that true beauty gives permanent happiness. Physical pleasures fade, but beautiful objects, nature, and art leave lasting impressions on the human mind. Such beauty provides comfort and strength during difficult times.

---

◆ **(v) Why Saheb didn't go to school? (Lost Spring)**

Saheb belonged to an extremely poor family. He had to work to support his family. Though his mother wanted him to study, poverty and lack of facilities forced him into child labour.

---

◆ **(vi) Third level as escape (The Third Level)**

The third level symbolises Charley's desire to escape modern stress. It represents a fantasy world where life is simple, peaceful, and secure. It shows how people create imaginary worlds to avoid harsh realities.

---

---

◆ **(vii) Role of French language (The Last Lesson)**

French symbolises identity and cultural heritage. Franz realises its importance only when it is banned. His regret reflects the emotional attachment to one's mother tongue and the pain of losing cultural freedom.

---

◆ **(viii) Lesson from Douglas (Deep Water)**

Douglas teaches that fear can be overcome through determination and practice. Instead of surrendering, he trains himself systematically. His success proves that courage and perseverance can defeat even deep-rooted fears.

---

◆ **(ix) Beauty helping cope (A Thing of Beauty)**

Keats suggests that beauty provides mental peace and hope. Remembering beautiful scenes, poems, and nature gives people emotional strength. This helps them face life's struggles with positivity.

---

◆ **(x) Fishermen and salt-gatherer (Keeping Quiet)**

These images show humans working peacefully without harming others. The poet promotes harmony between man and nature. They symbolise a world free from violence and exploitation.

---

◆ **(xi) Kipling's refusal to interview (The Interview)**

Kipling disliked invasion of privacy. He believed interviews distorted a writer's personality. His refusal shows that interviews can be intrusive and uncomfortable.

---

◆ **(xii) Narrator in Lost Spring**

The narrator connects individual suffering with social reality. Through observation and interaction, the narrator exposes poverty, child labour, and injustice, making the story more realistic and impactful.

---

---

 **QUESTION 11 – SHORT ANSWERS  
(40–50 WORDS EACH)**

---

◆ **(i) Character of M. Hamel (The Last Lesson)**

M. Hamel is sincere, patriotic, and dedicated. On the last day, he is emotional and regretful. He realises the value of his language and urges students to protect their linguistic heritage.

---

◆ **(ii) Fear of separation (My Mother at Sixty-Six)**

The poet notices her mother's pale face and fears losing her. Though she hides her emotions, repeated thoughts of death reveal deep anxiety and love.

---

◆ **(iii) Escapism in The Third Level**

Charley escapes into fantasy to avoid stress. The third level represents his wish for a simpler past. Escapism helps him cope with anxiety.

---

◆ **(iv) Satire on power (The Tiger King)**

The story mocks rulers who misuse power. The king's obsession with killing tigers exposes arrogance and foolishness. It shows that absolute power leads to self-destruction.

---

---

◆ **(v) Students on Ice – awareness (Journey to the End of the Earth)**

Such programmes expose students to climate realities. They learn how glaciers preserve Earth's history and how human actions damage the environment, promoting responsibility.

---

◆ **(vi) Zitkala-Sa as wooden puppet**

The phrase shows helplessness. She is physically controlled and emotionally broken. It reflects cultural oppression.

---

◆ **(vii) Derry's remark (On the Face of It)**

Derry believes people offer false sympathy. He prefers honesty and realistic acceptance rather than hollow consolation.

---

---

◆ **(viii) “Spirit tore itself...” (Memories of Childhood)**

Zitkala-Sa feels deeply hurt when her hair is cut. Hair represents freedom and identity. The act humiliates her and destroys her spirit.

---

◆ **(ix) Mr. Lamb’s oneness belief**

Mr. Lamb accepts everyone equally. He befriends Derry despite his scar and treats him with kindness.

---

◆ **(x) Qualities of Hana (The Enemy)**

Hana is compassionate and courageous. She insists on saving the wounded soldier and supports her husband despite danger.

---

---

**(i) What made the peddler finally change his ways and become an honest man? (The Rattrap)**

The peddler’s change is brought about by Edla Willmansson’s kindness and trust. She treats him with dignity despite knowing his past, which awakens his conscience and inspires him to return the stolen money and reform himself.

---

**(ii) Why does the poet use the image of ‘merry children spilling out of their homes’ in contrast to her mother? (My Mother at Sixty-Six)**

The poet contrasts energetic children with her ageing mother to highlight the difference between youth and old age. This contrast deepens her fear of losing her mother and emphasises the passage of time.

---

**(iii) How does the poet convey the idea of silence as a moment of introspection in 'Keeping Quiet'?**

The poet presents silence as a pause from activity where people reflect on their actions and thoughts. This moment of stillness encourages self-awareness, understanding, and a renewed sense of humanity.

---

**(iv) What is the significance of the line 'A thing of beauty is a joy forever' in John Keats' poem?**

The line means that true beauty gives lasting happiness. Unlike physical pleasures, beautiful objects and memories continue to comfort and inspire the human soul throughout life.

---

**(v) Why did Saheb not go to school despite his mother's encouragement? (Lost Spring)**

Saheb belonged to an extremely poor family. Poverty forced him to work to earn a living, and lack of proper facilities made schooling impossible despite his mother's wishes.

---

**(vi) How does the third level at Grand Central symbolize escape from reality? (The Third Level)**

The third level represents Charley's desire to escape modern stress. It symbolizes a fantasy world where life is simple, peaceful, and free from anxiety, showing how people seek refuge in imagination.

**i) What role does the French language play in 'The Last Lesson', in the context of the narrator's feelings towards it?**

French represents Franz's cultural identity and heritage. He realises its importance only when it is banned by the Prussian order. His sudden respect for French shows how people value their language when they fear losing it.

---

**(ii) What lesson can individuals learn from Douglas's experience in overcoming his fear of water? (Deep Water)**

Douglas teaches that fear can be conquered through determination and systematic effort. Instead of surrendering, he practised under expert guidance and gradually built confidence. His experience proves that perseverance can overcome even deep-rooted fears.

---

**(iii) Based on what Keats suggests in 'A Thing of Beauty,' how can recognising the lasting value of beauty help someone in the real world cope with challenges or difficulties?**

Keats suggests that beauty provides mental peace and hope. Remembering beautiful objects, nature, and poetry gives people strength to endure sorrow. This awareness helps individuals remain positive and emotionally strong during hardships.

---

**(iv) What does the reference to fishermen not harming whales and the man gathering salt looking at his hurt hands signify in the poem? (Keeping Quiet)**

These references symbolise harmless and peaceful human activity. They suggest a world without violence and exploitation. The poet urges people to reflect on their actions and live with compassion towards others and nature.

---

**(v) How does Rudyard Kipling's refusal to be interviewed point towards the intrusive and unwelcome nature of interviews? (The Interview I & II)**

Kipling disliked interviews because they invaded a writer's privacy and misrepresented thoughts. His refusal highlights how interviews can be intrusive, uncomfortable, and damaging to a person's personal space and creativity.

---

**(vi) What is the significance of a narrator in 'Lost Spring' as opposed to a plain narrative? What lesson does the story 'The Enemy' teach about humanity during war?**

The narrator in *Lost Spring* connects individual suffering with social reality, making the story realistic and impactful. *The Enemy* teaches that humanity and compassion must rise above national hatred, even during war.

**(i) How did the Champaran episode change the plight of the peasants? (Indigo)**

The Champaran episode brought freedom from the oppressive sharecropping system. Under Gandhi's leadership, peasants gained courage to protest against British planters. An inquiry committee was formed, and peasants received compensation, improving their social and economic condition.

---

**(ii) Why did Douglas use the metaphor 'Deep Water' as the title to his autobiographical account? (Deep Water)**

The title symbolises both Douglas's physical fear of drowning and his deeper psychological fear. It represents the emotional struggle he faced and his ultimate victory over fear through determination and training.

---

**(iii) What is the significance of the title 'The Rattrap'? (The Rattrap)**

The title reflects the peddler's belief that the world is like a rattrap offering temptations that trap people. However, the story shows that kindness and compassion can free individuals from these traps.

---

**(iv) What are the ordeals Aunt Jennifer is surrounded by? (Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)**

Aunt Jennifer suffers under a domineering and oppressive marriage. She feels physically and emotionally burdened by her husband's authority. Her trembling hands reflect fear, helplessness, and lifelong suffering.

---

**(v) Explain the meaning of the word 'Interview' as signified in the lesson. (The Interview)**

The word 'interview' signifies an intrusive interaction that invades a person's privacy. The lesson shows how interviews distort a writer's image and cause discomfort, making them an unwelcome experience.

---

**(vi) How has Ashokamitran used humans to entertain his readers and which figure of speech does he use in the title to highlight it? (Poets and Pancakes)**

Ashokamitran humorously portrays human weaknesses such as ego, jealousy, and ambition. The title uses **metaphor** to highlight the excessive use of make-up, making the description amusing and satirical.

**(i) Describe the character of M. Hamel and his emotional state on the day of the last French lesson. (The Last Lesson)**

M. Hamel is a devoted and patriotic teacher who values his language deeply. On the last day, he is emotional, regretful, and proud. His sadness reflects love for French and concern for his students' future.

---

**(ii) How does the poet express her fear of separation from her ageing mother in 'My Mother at Sixty-Six'?**

The poet notices her mother's pale and lifeless face and compares it to a corpse. Though she smiles outwardly, repeated glances reveal inner fear and anxiety about losing her mother.

---

**(iii) Discuss the theme of escapism in 'The Third Level' and how Charley deals with modern life's pressures.**

Charley escapes into a fantasy world to avoid stress. The third level represents his longing for a simpler past. Imagination becomes his way of coping with anxiety.

---

**(iv) Explain the satire on absolute power in 'The Tiger King'.**

The story mocks rulers who misuse authority. The king's obsession with killing tigers shows arrogance and foolishness. His ironic death proves that absolute power leads to self-destruction.

**Top 20 Textual Short Answer Questions with Answers** (exam-focused, 40–50 words each) from the chapters repeatedly appearing in your PYQs:

---

### **1. What made the peddler finally change his ways? (The Rattrap)**

The peddler changed due to Edla's kindness and trust. She treated him with dignity despite knowing his past. Her compassion awakened his conscience and inspired him to return the stolen money and reform himself.

---

### **2. What is the significance of the title *The Rattrap*?**

The title suggests that the world is full of temptations that trap people like a rattrap. However, kindness and compassion can help people escape these traps.

---

### **3. How did the Champaran episode change the plight of the peasants? (Indigo)**

The Champaran episode freed peasants from the oppressive sharecropping system. Gandhi's leadership gave them courage to resist injustice, and they received partial refund, restoring their dignity.

---

### **4. Why did Douglas use the title *Deep Water*?**

The title symbolises both his fear of drowning and deeper psychological fear. It reflects his struggle and eventual triumph over fear.

---

### **5. What lesson does Douglas's experience teach?**

Douglas's story teaches that fear can be conquered through determination, practice, and courage.

---

### **6. Why does the poet compare merry children with her mother? (My Mother at Sixty-Six)**

The contrast highlights youth versus old age. It deepens the poet's fear of losing her mother.

---

**7. What does “A thing of beauty is a joy forever” mean? (A Thing of Beauty)**

True beauty gives lasting happiness and spiritual comfort.

---

**8. Why did Saheb not go to school? (Lost Spring)**

Poverty forced Saheb to work for survival. Lack of facilities made education impossible.

---

**9. How does the third level symbolize escape? (The Third Level)**

It represents Charley’s desire to escape modern stress into a peaceful past.

---

**10. What are Aunt Jennifer’s ordeals? (Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers)**

She suffers under an oppressive marriage and lives in fear.

---

**11. What does *Keeping Quiet* suggest about silence?**

Silence encourages self-reflection and peace.

---

**12. Why is M. Hamel emotional? (The Last Lesson)**

It is his last French lesson, and he fears loss of language and culture.

---

**13. What does Zitkala-Sa’s “wooden puppet” comparison show?**

It shows helplessness and cultural oppression.

---

**14. How does Mr. Lamb show belief in universal oneness? (On the Face of It)**

He accepts Derry without judging his scar.

---

**15. What qualities of Hana are shown? (The Enemy)**

Hana is compassionate, brave, and humane.

---

**16. What lesson does *The Enemy* teach?**

Humanity should rise above war and nationality.

---

**17. Why did Kipling dislike interviews? (The Interview)**

He felt interviews invaded privacy.

---

**18. What is the role of narrator in *Lost Spring*?**

He links individual suffering with social reality.

---

**19. Why is Antarctica important? (Journey to the End of the Earth)**

It preserves Earth's climate history.

---

**20. What is satire in *The Tiger King*?**

It mocks abuse of power.