

## PROSE

1-

### LAST LESSON

#### Short Answer Type Questions

**Answer the following in 30-40 words each. (3 marks each)**

1. Why was Franz afraid to go to school that morning?
2. What temptations did Franz overcome to proceed to school?
3. What was the significance of the bulletin-board in the town hall?
4. Why was Franz blushing and feeling frightened when he entered the class room?
5. Why did the writer want to run away and spend the day outdoors? Did he overcome his temptation?
6. How and why was M. Hamel dressed differently that day?
7. Why were the old men of the village present in the class room?
8. How was the order from Berlin going to make a difference to the lives of the students?
9. How did Franz's attitude towards his books change after he heard about the order from Berlin?
10. What universality of human nature does the teacher comment upon?
11. Whom does the teacher blame for ignoring the learning at school and why?
12. How does M. Hamel hold parents and himself responsible for students neglecting learning? (having not studied?)
13. How does M. Hamel praise the French language?
14. How is the mother tongue important for the enslaved people?
15. Why was Franz able to understand everything?
16. 'I never saw him look so tall.. Who is the person mentioned? What does the speaker mean by the above statement?
17. What did M. Hamel write on the black board at the end of the class? How is it significant?
18. Why did M. Hamel make a gesture to the students to leave?

#### Long Answer Questions

**Answer the following in about 125-150 words each (6 marks each)**

1. Justify the title 'The Last Lesson'.
2. In the story M. Hamel emerges not only as a dedicated teacher but also as a sensitive and understanding human being.. Elaborate the character of M. Hamel in light of the above statement.
3. 'When a people are enslaved, as long as they hold fast to their language it is as if they have the keys to their prison.. Discuss the significance of this statement in light of the lesson.
4. Franz's attitude towards school as well as towards M. Hamel changes when he comes to know about the take-over of his village by the Prussians. Do you agree? Discuss with reference to 'The Last Lesson'.

### 2- THE LOST SPRING

## STORIES OF STOLEN CHILDHOOD

*By Anees Jung*

### Short Answer Type Questions (30-40 words). (3 marks each)

1. Why is the author's advice to Sahab-e-alam to go to school hollow?
2. Is Sahab-e-alam hurt by the author's failure to keep her promise of starting a school? Give a reasoned answer.
3. Bring out the irony in the name Sahab-e-alam?
4. How is Seemapuri on the outskirts of the city but still miles away from it?
5. How do children of rag pickers become equal partners in survival?
6. How has rag picking acquired the proportions of a fine art?
7. How did Saheb get tennis shoes? Why does he explain the author how he had got them?
8. Describe the working condition of bangle making of Firozabad.
9. 'Garbage to them is gold.. Bring out the significance of this statement.
10. How does an adult and a child rag picker look at garbage differently?
11. Why is Saheb not happy with his new job?
12. How is the bangle industry of Firozabad a curse for the bangle makers?
13. What is the significance of bangles for an Indian woman?
14. Why don't the bangle workers organise themselves into a co-operative?
15. Why hasn't Firozabad changed with time?
16. What does Mukesh proudly say that his house is being rebuilt?
17. Why is Mukesh's dream of becoming a motor mechanic significant?

### Long Answer Type Questions

#### Answer the following in 125-150 words (6 marks each)

1. 'Survival in Seemapuri means rag picking'. Give a detailed account of the life and activities of the refugees from Bangladesh settled in Seemapuri.
2. The life of bangle makers of Firozabad was full of obstacles which forced them to lead a life of poverty and deprivation. Elaborate
3. The lesson 'Lost Spring' is a realistic portrayal of the lives of street children. Discuss.
4. The beauty of the bangles made in Firozabad is in direct contrast to the life of the people who make them. Elaborate.
5. What are the hazards of working in bangle factories?
6. 'Poverty is a vicious cycle for refugees, slum dwellers and bangle makers'. Discuss in the light of the lesson.

## DEEP WATER

*BY William Douglas*

### Short Answer Type Questions

#### Answer the following in about 30-40 words each. (3 marks each)

1. How and when did Douglas develop an aversion to water?
2. What strategy of escaping drowning did Douglas have in mind?
3. Why couldn't Douglas implement his strategy of escaping drowning?
4. What was the immediate effect of the drowning incident on Douglas?

5. How did Douglas feel after receiving training from the swimming instructor?
6. Mention any two long term consequences of the drowning incident on Douglas.
7. Why did the drowning experience deprive Douglas from the pleasure of water sports?
8. What did Douglas do to overcome his fear of water?
9. Why did the experience of conquering his fear of water have a deeper meaning for Douglas?
10. 'I screamed, but only the water heard me. Why did Douglas scream and that does he mean?
11. Mention two qualities of Douglas that helped him conquer his fear.
12. Even after receiving training from the instructor why did Douglas not feel confident to swim?

### **Long Answer Type Questions**

**Answer the following in 125-150 words. (10 marks each)**

1. 'Piece by piece, he built a swimmer.. How did the instructor help the author to become a swimmer and overcome his fear of water?
2. What emotions did the author experience while he was drowning in the YMCA pool? How did he face the near-death experience?
3. 'If we surrender to our fears, they overpower us; if we face them, they fade away'. Do you agree? Why /Why not? Discuss with reference to the lesson 'Deep Water'.

### **THE RATTRAP**

**By**

### **Short Answer Type Questions**

**Answer the following in about 30-40 words each. (2 marks each)**

1. How did the peddler earn his livelihood?
2. What strange idea about the world struck the peddler?
3. How did the crofter treat the peddler and why?
4. Why was the crofter so talkative and friendly with the peddler though he was a stranger?
5. How did the peddler abuse the trust the crofter had reposed in him?
6. What thoughts came to the peddler's mind when he realised he had lost his way in the jungle?
7. How was the iron master's reaction to the peddler different from that of the blacksmith?
8. Why did the peddler decline the iron master's invitation?
9. What made the peddler accept Edla's invitation?
10. What impression did Edla form about the peddler?
11. What did the iron master realise after the peddler had been groomed by his servants?
12. Pick two instances from the story 'The Rattrap' to show that the peddler realized he himself was trapped?
13. How did the peddler feel when he realised he could not get out of the forest?
14. Why did the iron master decide not to hand over the peddler to the sheriff?
15. Why did Edla insist on entertaining the peddler even after he was exposed?
16. What had the peddler left behind as a Christmas gift for Edla Willmanson?

17. What did the peddler think on the way to the iron master's house.
18. What did the gift of the rat trap signify?
19. Why was Edla happy to see the gift left by the peddler?
20. Why were Edla and her father surprised on reaching home after the church service?
21. Why did the peddler sign himself as Captain Van Stahle?

### **Long Answer Type Questions**

**Answer the following in 125-150 words each. (10 marks each)**

1. What rattrap was the peddler trapped in? How did he come out of it?
2. The story 'The Rat Trap' is not only entertaining but also philosophical. Bring out the entertaining and philosophical elements of the story.
3. 'A simple act of mercy and kindness can bring about a change of heart'. Discuss the significance of love and kindness with reference to the story 'The Rattrap'.
4. 'Man is a social animal. He can survive but not live in isolation'. Do you agree? Justify your answer.

**INDIGO**

*By Louis Fischer*

### **Short Answer Type Questions. (30-40 words each) . (3 marks each)**

1. Who was Rajkumar Shukla? Why did he want to meet Gandhiji?
2. How did Shukla persuade Gandhiji to visit Champaran?
3. Why was Gandhiji not allowed to draw water from the well of Dr. Rajender Prasad's house?
4. What did the peasants of Champaran pay to the British landlords as rent?
5. Why did Gandhiji go to a nearby village in Champaran? Why did he come back without visiting the place?
6. What was the outcome of protracted interviews that Gandhiji had with the Lt. Governor?
7. Why did the landlords want to be released from the 15% arrangement?
8. Which incident in the lesson is the beginning of the peasants' liberation from the fear of British?
9. Why did Gandhiji agree to a settlement of 25% refund to the farmers?
10. What was the conflict of duties that Gandhiji underwent? How did he resolve it?
11. Why did Gandhiji receive summons to appear in court?
12. 'Civil Disobedience had triumphed the first time in India'. How did it happen?
13. When and why did Gandhiji say 'The battle of Champaran is won'?
14. How was Gandhiji's style of politics different from the usual politicians?
15. How was the Champaran episode a turning point in Gandhiji's life?
16. How did Gandhiji teach his followers a lesson in self-reliance?
17. What steps did Gandhiji take to remove the social and cultural backwardness of the Champaran villagers?
18. What was done to improve and look after the health of the people of Champaran?

### **Long Answer Type Questions**

**Answer the following in 125-150 words. (6 marks each)**

1. Dialogue not violence can resolve situations of conflict and injustice. Do you agree? Answer with instances from the lesson Indigo.
2. The visit undertaken casually on the entreaty of an unlettered peasant occupied almost a year of Gandhiji's life. What events unfolded and with what results?
3. How was Gandhiji's stay and work at Champaran a great turning point to the people of Champaran to the freedom struggle and to Gandhiji himself?
4. Raj Kumar Shukla played as a significant a role as Gandhiji did in the success of the Champaran episode. Do you agree? Give reasons in support of your answer.

## GOING PLACES

BY A.R. Barton

### Short Answer Type Questions

Answer the following in 30-40 words each. (3 marks each)

1. What does Sophie dream of doing after leaving school?
2. How are Jansie and Sophie poles apart though they are friends?
3. What does the description of Sophie's home reveal about her family's socio-economic status?
4. What work is Geoff engaged in? How does he differ from his sister Sophie?
5. Why did Sophie feel jealous of Geoff's silence?
6. How did Sophie want to be a part of Geoff's world?
7. Who is Danny Casey? How do Sophie's brother and father react to her claim of meeting Danny Casey?
8. Do you think Sophie had actually met Danny Casey? Why? Why not?
9. What range of emotions did Sophie undergo as she waited for Danny Casey?
10. The family was a great fan of Danny Casey and his game. What incident in the story suggest this.
11. Who is responsible for Sophie's tears? Why do you think so?

### Long Answer Type Questions

Answer in about 125-150 words each. (10 marks each)

1. Bring out the difference in the character of Sophie and Jansie.
2. Going Places. is a story that borders on fantasy and reality. Discuss.
3. The meeting of Sophie with Danny Casey is a figment of her imagination. Do you agree? Why? Why not?
4. Write a character sketch of Geoff. How is it different from Sophie?
5. 'Sophie's dream world clashes with the world of her family and friends'. Do you think Sophie is able to balance her dream world with her real world. Comment.

## POETRY

### MY MOTHER AT SIXTY SIX by KAMALA DAS

How does the poet describe her mother?

Explain the expression '.... Pain that looked as old as she was...'

What was the poet 'looking' at? What did she notice?

b) What thought did she try to drive away?

c) Why did the poet start 'looking out'? What does her gesture suggest?

d) What did the poet see from the window of the car?

e) What did the images of 'young trees' and 'merry children' symbolize?

c) Why does the narrator 'look at her mother again'?

d) Explain: 'wan, pale as a late winter's moon'.

a) What 'familiar ache' did the poet feel?

b) What could have been the poet's childhood fears?

Did the poet share her thoughts with her mother?

d) Why do you think, the poet did not share her thoughts with her mother?

e) Why did the poet only 'smile'?

What is the kind of pain and ache that the poet feels?

2 What does the poet do to shrug off the painful thought of her mother's approaching end?

3. Why does the poet draw the image of sprinting trees and merry children?

Why have the trees been described as sprinting?

5. Why has the mother been compared to the late winter's moon?

6. What is the 'familiar ache'?

7. What do the parting words of the poet and her smile signify?

### **AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSROOM IN A SLUM -BY STEPHEN SPENDER**

**Answer the following questions:**

1. Why does the poet invoke 'governor, 'inspector' and 'visitor'?

2. What does 'this map' refer to? How can it become 'their window'?

3. What have 'these windows' done to their lives?

4. What do you understand by catacombs?

5. Which literary device has been used here? Explain.

6. What is the theme of the poem?

7. 'So blot their maps with slums as big as doom'. What does the poet want to convey?

8. 'History is theirs whose language is the sun'. Explain.

### **QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE**

B. Read the stanza and answer the questions that follows:

**"Surely, Shakespeare is wicked, the map a bad example,**

**With ships and sun and love tempting them to steal-**

**For lives that turn in their cramped holes**

**From fog to endless nights."**



- i) Name the poem and the poet
  - ii) Why has Shakespeare been described as wicked?
  - iii) Why is the map a bad example?
  - iv) What tempts them to steal?
  - v) How do the children continue to live?
  - vi) Explain: 'From fog to endless night.'
- C. Read the stanza and answer the questions that follows:

**"The stunted, unlucky heir**

**Of twisted bones, reciting a fathers gnarled disease**

**His lesson from his desk. At the back of the dim class**

**One unnoted, sweet and young. His eyes live in a dream**

**Of squirrel's game, in tree room, other than this."**

- a) Who is being referred to in the first two lines?
- b) Explain 'father's gnarled disease'.
- c) Who sit at the back of the class? How is he different from others?
- d) Explain his eyes live in a dream?
- e) What is the comparison drawn with squirrels game?

#### **SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

- 1. What is that these children inherit from their parents? What does it signify?
- 2. How has the poet described the colour of the wall and why?
- 3. The poet presents two different worlds. What are they?
- 4. What picture of the slum children does the poet draw?
- 5. Where does the poet see hope and relief?
- 6. What does the poet mean by saying, 'Let their tongue run naked into books'?
- 7. How does the poet bring to light the brutalities of slum life?
- 8. Explain 'Open handed map, awarding the world its world'
- 9. In what way are the slum children unsung fighters?
- 10. How does the poet see the children as victims of social injustice?

#### **KEEPING QUIET-BY PABLO NERUDA**

1. Read the stanza and answer the questions that follows:

**"Fishermen in the cold sea**

**Would not harm whales/ And the man gathering salt**

**Would look at his hurt hands."**

- a) What is 'fisherman' symbolic of?
- b) What will happen when fishermen do not harm whales?
- c) What has happened to the man gathering salt? What must he do?
- d) What would happen in this moment of silence?
- e) What image does the poet create in the last line?

2. Read the stanza and answer the questions that follows:

**‘Perhaps the earth can teach us  
As when everything seems dead  
And later prove to be alive  
Now I’ll count up to twelve  
And you keep quiet and I will go.’**

- a) Who can teach us and what?
- c) Why does the speaker count upto twelve?
- d) Explain-‘you keep quiet and I will go’?

**Short Answer Questions**

- 1. Why does Pablo Neruda urge us to keep still?
- 2. ‘Under the apparent stillness there is life’. Justify.
- 3. Why do men become sad? How can this sadness be overcome?

**“What I want should not be confused**

**With total inactivity**

**Life is what it is about**

**I want no truck with death.”**

- 1. What is the desire of the poet?
- 2. What does ‘total inactivity’ imply?
- 3. Why does the poet say that he does not want his wish to be confused with total inactivity?
- 4. Explain-‘I want no truck with death’.

**SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS**

- 1. Why shouldn’t we speak any language and move our arms so much?
- 2. How does the poet distinguish ‘stillness’ from ‘total inactivity’? Explain.
- 3. “I want no truck with death. “Explain.
- 4. What are the various wars mentioned? What is the result of these wars?
- 5. What would be the result of quietude?
- 6. What is the ‘exotic moment’ mentioned in the poem and how can we achieve it?
- 7. According to the poet, why should not we speak in any language?
- 8. What has man single-mindedly focused on and to what effect?

### **A THING OF BEAUTY by JOHN KEATS**

**“yes, in spite of all, Some shape of beauty  
moves away the pall From our dark spirits.  
Such the sun, the moon , Trees old, and young,  
sprouting a shady boon  
For simple sheep: and such are daffodils”**

- a. What does ‘in spite of all’ refer to?
- b. What , according to the poet , drives away the sadness from our life?
- c. What does the reference ‘simple sheep’ symbolize?

**Short Answer Questions:**

- (a) What according to Keats are the things that cause suffering and pain?
- (b) What makes human beings love life in spite of all the suffering?



c) Why does the poet say 'mighty dead'?

**"A thing of beauty is a joy forever/ Its loveliness increases, it will never /Pass into nothingness; but will keep  
a bower quiet for us, and a sleep/ full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet  
breathing/ Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing /A flowery band to  
bind us to the earth."**

- What is the special virtue of a beautiful thing?
- How does it bless us?
- Explain the expression "A bower quiet for us".
- What do we do everyday ?

**2. "the mid forest brake, rich with a sprinkling of fair musk-rose blooms;  
and such too is the grandeur of the dooms who have imagined for the mighty  
dead;**

**All lovely tales that we have heard or read;  
An endless fountain of immortal drink,  
Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink."**

- What do you mean by 'brake'? Where does it grow? What makes it all the more beautiful?
- What do you mean by 'the grandeur of the dooms'?
- "All lovely tales that we have heard or read" Explain
- What is the source of the beauty of nature? What is its effect on us?

**3. "Some shape of beauty moves away the pall from our dark spirits.  
Such the sun, the moon, trees old, and young, sprouting a shady boon  
for simple sheep; and such are daffodils with green world they live in;  
and clear rills that for themselves a cooling covert make  
'against the hot season; the mid forest brake  
Rich with a sprinkling of fair musk-rose blooms"**

- What type of beauty and its effect are mentioned here?
- What sprouts a shady boon for sheep and how?
- How do 'daffodils' and rills enrich the environment?
- What makes the mid-forest brake rich?

#### **Short answer Questions**

- How do we wreath a flowery band?
- Why do human beings suffer or what depresses the human soul?
- What does Keats mean by the 'grandeur of doom'?
- Mention 4 things of beauty listed in the poem?
- How do we bind ourselves to the earth every morning?
- Why and how is 'grandeur' associated with the mighty dead?
- What is the source of the 'endless fountain' and what is its effect?
- What is the message of the poem/what philosophy of life is highlighted in the poem?

#### **AUNT JENNIFER'S TIGERS By ADRIENNE RICH**

**1. "Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen,  
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green.**

**They do not fear the men beneath the tree:**

**They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.”**

- a) What does the expression ‘Aunt Jennifer’s tigers imply?’
- b) What does ‘prancing tigers’ symbolize?
- c) Why are they referred to as ‘denizens of a world of green’?
- d) What qualities of the ‘tigers’ are highlighted here?
- e) Explain; “They pace in sleek chivalric certainty”.

**2.”Aunt Jennifer’s fingers fluttering through her wool/ Find even the ivory needle hard to pull./ The massive weight of Uncle’s wedding band / Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer’s hand.”**

- A ) Why do Aunt Jennifer’s fingers flutter through her wool?
- b) Why does she find it hard to pull the ivory needle?
- c) Explain: ‘massive weight of Uncle’s wedding band’.
- d) How is Aunt Jennifer affected by the ‘weight of matrimony’?

**3.”When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie /Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by./ The tigers in the panel that she made/ Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.”**

- a) What is Aunt Jennifer’s death symbolic of?
- b) Explain: “terrified hands”.
- c) What does ‘ringed with ordeals’ imply?
- d) Is the society in any way affected by Aunt Jennifer’s death?
- e) Explain: “the tigers in the panel....will go on prancing, proud and unafraid”.

#### **SHORT ANSWER QUESTION S**

- 1. How do Aunt Jennifer’s tiger look like?
- 2. What do the tigers made by the Aunt symbolize?
- 3. Why do you think Aunt Jennifer’s hands are fluttering through her wool? Why is she finding the needle so hard to pull?
- 4. What do you understand by “massive weight of uncle’s wedding band”?
- 5. Explain ‘her terrified hands will lie, still ringed with the ordeals she was mastered by’.
- 6. Explain ‘The tigers in the panel -----proud and unafraid.’
- 7.What ideology does the poem propound?
- 8.How is the poem a forceful expression of the evil of patriarchy? The tigers are contrasting symbols. Do you think so? How?
- 9.What ordeals do you think Aunt Jennifer is surrounded by?
- 10.Why do you think Aunt Jennifer created animals that are so different from her own character?
- 11.What impression do you form about the Uncle in the poem? Cite evidences.