

**CLASS-X**  
**ENGLISH LITERATURE**  
**QUESTION BANK**  
**PROSE-WITH THE PHOTOGRAPHER**

**QUESTION-1; CHOOSE THE CORRECT ALTERNATIVES.**

1. Choose the option that lists the sequence of events in the correct order. (Analysis)

1. The narrator went back on Saturday.
2. The photographer unfolded the proof of a large photograph.
3. The photographer beckoned the narrator in.
4. The photographer and the narrator looked at the photo in silence.

a) 1, 3, 2, 4

b) 4, 1, 3, 2

c) 4, 1, 2, 3

d) 3, 2, 4, 1

Ans- (a)

2. What is the importance of the narrator's concluding speech? (Evaluation)

- a) It highlights the photographer's expertise in retouching photos.
- b) It emphasises the narrator's dissatisfaction with his own appearance.
- c) It criticises societal standards of beauty and promotes self-acceptance.
- d) It showcases the photographer's dedication to capturing the perfect image.

**Extract-based Questions**

- I. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow

The photographer looked at me without enthusiasm. He was a drooping man in a grey suit, with the dim eye of a natural scientist. But there is no need to describe him. Everybody knows what a photographer is like.

"Sit there," he said, "and wait."

I waited an hour. I read the Ladies Companion for 1912, the Girls Magazine for 1902 and the Infants Journal for 1888.

1. How did the photographer initially react to the narrator's request? (Recall & Understanding)
2. How did the photographer's appearance and demeanour affect the narrator's perception of him? (Understanding & Analysis)
3. What did the narrator do while waiting to get his photograph taken?
4. What did the narrator realise while waiting for an hour? (Understanding)
5. What did the photographer do after the narrator had waited for an hour? (Recall)

### **Answers**

1. Initially, the photographer reacted to the narrator's request without enthusiasm.
2. The photographer's appearance and demeanour, described as "a drooping man in a grey suit with the dim eye of a natural scientist", made the narrator perceive him as disinterested in and unenthusiastic about his presence. The narrator began to feel that his face was not suitable for the photographer's scientific pursuits, leading to a sense of self-doubt about his own appearance.
3. While waiting to get his photograph taken, the narrator engaged in reading various magazines. He specifically mentioned reading the Ladies Companion for 1912, the Girls Magazine for 1902, and the Infants Journal for 1888. This indicates that the waiting time felt long and tedious, leading the narrator to occupy himself with reading material.
4. As the narrator waited to get his photograph taken, he began to realise that by asking the photographer to click a picture of him, he might have committed an unwarranted act by invading the photographer's professional life. The narrator seemingly thought that he was wasting the photographer's time and resources by asking him to click a picture of a face as undesirable as his.
5. After the narrator had waited for an hour, the photographer opened the inner door and instructed the narrator to come into the studio. This indicates that the photographer needed some time to prepare the studio or complete other tasks before attending to the narrator's request.

### **III. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:**

When the photographer came out at last, he looked very grave and shook his head.

"The face is quite wrong", he said.

"I know," I answered quietly; "I have always known it."

1. What did the photographer say about the narrator's face?

(Recall)

2. How did the narrator respond to the photographer's comment about his face?

(Recall & Understanding)

3. How did the photographer adjust the narrator's head? How did the narrator perceive the photographer's action? (Understanding & Analysis)

4. How did the photographer instruct the narrator to adjust his ears and eyes?  
(Recall)
5. What did the narrator say about his face? (Recall & Understanding)

### POEM- HAUNTED HOUSES

#### QUESTION-1; CHOOSE THE CORRECT ALTERNATIVES.

1. Which of the following lines contains the same literary device as the one in, "Impalpable impressions on the air"? (Analysis)
- a) "There are more guests at table than the hosts"
  - b) "From graves forgotten stretch their dusty hands,"
  - c) "Are haunted houses. Through the open doors"
  - d) "Invited; the illuminated hall"
2. If a modern architect were designing a house based on the themes in Haunted Houses, which feature would best embody the poem's central idea? (Application)
- a) Large windows to maximise natural light
  - b) A minimalist interior to encourage simplicity
  - c) A design incorporating historical elements from previous eras
  - d) A smart home system to enhance security

Ans-(c)

#### QUESTION- 2; Read the stanza given below and answer the questions that follow:

We have no title-deeds to house or lands;  
Owners and occupants of earlier dates  
From graves forgotten stretch their dusty hands,  
And hold in mortmain still their old estates.

1. Do the current inhabitants have a rightful claim to the house and lands? Justify your answer using evidence from the stanza. (Understanding & Analysis)
2. Who are the "owners and occupants of earlier dates"? (Recall & Understanding)
3. What does it mean for the earlier inhabitants to "stretch their dusty hands"? (Understanding & Analysis)
4. How does the phrase "graves forgotten" highlight the passage of time and the legacy of the past? (Understanding & Analysis)
5. How does the phrase "hold in mortmain still their old estates" reinforce the idea of past generations' influence over the present? (Understanding & Analysis)

#### Answers

1. The poem suggests that the current inhabitants do not have an absolute or permanent claim to their homes and lands. The phrase "We have no title-deeds to house or lands" implies that ownership is temporary, as generations before them also lived in and possessed these spaces. The poet describes how the former

occupants, now long forgotten, still seem to hold onto their estates from beyond the grave, reinforcing the idea that no one truly owns land forever.

2. The “owners and occupants of earlier dates” refer to the people who lived in these houses before the current inhabitants. These past residents have passed away, yet their presence lingers in the form of memories, spirits, or an emotional imprint on the house. The poem suggests that even though they are physically gone, they symbolically remain, stretching their “dusty hands” as if still claiming ownership.

3. The phrase “stretch their dusty hands” is a metaphor suggesting that past generations continue to influence the present, even after death. The use of “dusty” implies decay and time passing, while “stretch their hands” symbolises a lingering connection or claim to the places they once lived. This could mean their presence is felt as spirits, memories, or the legacies they left behind.

4. “Graves forgotten” emphasises how time erases memory, as even those who once owned and lived in the house are eventually forgotten. This phrase highlights the transient nature of human existence—while people once had strong ties to their homes, they eventually pass away and become distant echoes in history. Yet, the poem suggests that, even in their forgotten state, these past souls still have an unseen presence in the world of the living.

5. The term “hold in mortmain” refers to an old legal concept where land ownership remains frozen, often under religious or institutional control. In the poem, it symbolises how past generations, though deceased, still exert a kind of spiritual or symbolic ownership over their former homes. This suggests that history, memories, and the lives of those who came before continue to shape the present, even if their physical presence is gone. The influence of the dead is unbroken, as if they still linger over their “old estates” in an intangible way.

**QUESTION- 3; Read the stanza given below and answer the questions that follow**

Our little lives are kept in equipoise

By opposite attractions and desires;

The struggle of the instinct that enjoys,

And the more noble instinct that aspires.

1. What does the poet mean by “equipoise,” and how does it relate to human life? (Understanding & Analysis)

2. What does the phrase “opposite attractions and desires” reveal about human nature? (Understanding & Analysis)

3. How does the poet contrast the instincts of enjoyment and aspiration? Explain in your own words. (Understanding & Recall)

4. What does the poet imply by referring to our lives as “little lives”? (Understanding & Analysis)

5. How does describing the instincts as both “enjoying” and “aspiring” shape our understanding of them? (Understanding & Analysis)

### **Answers**

1. The word “equipoise” refers to a state of balance or equilibrium. In the poem, Longfellow suggests that human life is constantly balanced between two opposing forces—our desires for pleasure and our aspirations for something greater. These conflicting instincts create a tension that keeps our lives in motion, much like a scale that remains level due to opposing weights. Without this balance, life would lack purpose and direction.

2. The phrase highlights the duality of human nature. People are drawn to both immediate pleasures and higher aspirations. On one hand, we seek joy and comfort in hu experiences, yet on the other, we yearn for something more meaningful and spiritual. This internal conflict is a fundamental part of being human, shaping our choices and struggles throughout life.

3. Longfellow describes two opposing instincts—one that enjoys and one that aspires. The instinct to enjoy is tied to earthly... ..pleasures and material satisfaction, while the instinct to aspire represents our longing for something nobler, such as knowledge, truth, or spiritual growth. These instincts often compete with each other, creating a struggle between temporary gratification and long-term fulfilment.

4. By calling our lives “little lives”, the poet emphasises their smallness in the grand scheme of existence. Human life is brief and limited, especially when compared to the vast universe or the timeless presence of the spirit world. This phrase also suggests humility, reminding us that we are part of something much larger than ourselves.

5. By presenting these instincts as both opposing and essential, the poet shows that they are not entirely negative or positive. Instead, they define the human experience, making life dynamic and meaningful. The enjoyment of worldly pleasures brings happiness, while the aspiration for something higher gives life depth and purpose. The tension between them keeps us striving and evolving.

## **DRAMA**

**(Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare)**

### **ACT III**

**QUESTION-1; CHOOSE THE CORRECT ALTERNATIVES;**

1. What does the phrase “Et tu, Brute?” signify in the context of Caesar’s assassination?  
(Understanding)

- a) Caesar acknowledges his fate and accepts his death.
- b) Caesar is shocked and hurt that Brutus, whom he trusted, has betrayed him.
- c) Caesar expresses gratitude to Brutus for ending his suffering.
- d) Caesar curses Brutus before he dies.

Ans- (b)

2. Why do the conspirators repeatedly kneel before Caesar? (Understanding)

- a) They are genuinely begging for mercy.
- b) They want to appear humble before attacking.
- c) They use it as a distraction to get close to him.
- d) They hope Caesar will change his mind about Publius Cimber.

Ans- (c)

3. What is the most effective element of Antony’s speech in turning the crowd against Brutus? (Evaluate)

- a) His logical reasoning.
- b) His aggressive accusations.
- c) His emotional appeal and use of Caesar’s will.
- d) His promise of a better future under his leadership.

Ans-(c)

4. What does the mob's violence against Cinna symbolise? (Analysis)

- a) The rebirth of Roman society
- b) The loss of individual identity in chaotic times
- c) The triumph of justice
- d) The restoration of peace

Ans- (b)

## **Question 2.**

**Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:**

Cassius: Some to the common pulpits, and cry out,

“Liberty, freedom, and enfranchisement!”

Brutus: People, and senators, be not affrighted;

Fly not; stand still; ambition’s debt is paid.

Casca: Go to pulpit, Brutus

Decius: And Cassius too.

(i) Where are the speakers?

What does ‘enfranchisement’ mean?

Explain: “Ambition’s debt is paid.” [Recall & Understanding]

(ii) At the beginning of the scene, Caesar calls Artemidorus ‘mad’.

Why do you think Caesar said this?

What had Artemidorus brought for Caesar and why? [Recall & Understanding]

(iii) Why did Brutus have to ask the people and senators to not be afraid?

In what state is Publius and what does Brutus say to him right after this? [Recall & Understanding]

(iv) What does Brutus say to prove that the conspirators are Caesar’s friends?

What does Brutus urge the Romans to do after this? [Recall]

(v) Earlier in the scene, Caesar is stabbed to death by the conspirators. Do you think Julius Caesar rightly deserved this or not? Give reasons to support your answer. [Evaluative & Analysis]

Answer:

(i) The speakers are at the Capitol/Senate/Rome.

Enfranchisement means liberation/freedom.

Brutus says this after Caesar’s assassination explaining that Caesar has paid the penalty for his over ambition.

(ii) Caesar said this as Artemidorus was handing over a scroll to Caesar and pleading repeatedly to read on the street.

Artemidorus had brought a letter which contained a warning for Caesar against the conspiracy.

Artemidorus was a Roman. He brought the scroll/letter as he was a well-wisher and wanted to save Caesar.

(iii) As all were afraid and confused after Caesar's assassination.

Publius is confused by the rebellion.

Brutus asks Publius to cheer up and tell the people that no injury was intended to any person or any Roman.

(iv) Brutus says that they are true friends as by killing Caesar they have shortened the time he would live in fear of death.

Brutus asks the Romans to bend their bodies, immerse their hands in Caesar's blood up to the elbow, dip their swords in it, go to the market place flourishing the blood-stained swords above their heads shouting 'PEACE, FREEDOM LIBERTY'

(v) DUMMY ANSWER

Yes, Caesar rightly deserved this as despite the conspirators' humble petition, Caesar only kept making exaggerated statements showing his superiority over other men. His vanity is very evident when he compares himself to the 'northern star'. He rises to divine heights by comparing himself with Olympian gods. Also, he was the representative of monarchic system feared to turn into a dictator. Thus, blinded by over ambition, he was assassinated rightly.

No, Caesar did not deserve to die as he was a brilliant military and political leader. When he was approached by Artemidorus, he said that what concerned him personally should be dealt with last. This shows that he had good intent of serving the people of Rome. He had bravely defeated Pompey's sons thus he rightfully deserved to be the king. He trusted Brutus greatly as a friend and being betrayed was tragic. He did not deserve to die of a conspiracy.

**Question 3. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:**

Antony: Have patience, gentle friends, I must not read it;

It is not meet you know how Caesar loved you.

You are not wood, you are not stones, but men;

And being men, hearing the will of Caesar,

It will inflame you, it will make you mad.

'Tis good you know not that you are his heirs;

For if you should, O, what would come of it?

(i) Who addressed the people of Rome before this?

What were the terms placed before Antony before allowing him to address the Romans? [3]

[Recall & Understanding]

(ii) What is referred to as 'it' in the first line of the above extract?

Why was Antony not willing to read 'it' to the people? [3]

[Recall & Understanding]

(iii) What all was mentioned in 'it'? [3]

[Recall & Understanding]

(iv) "You are not wood, you are not stones, but men"

What did Antony mean by the above line? How do you think this line stands as a sharp contrast to the thoughts of the Republicans? [3]

[Analysis]

(v) Comment on the oratory skills of Antony.

How do the oratory skills help Antony triumph over Brutus? [4]

[Evaluative & Analysis]

Answer:

(i) Marcus Brutus, one of the conspirators and Caesar's friend addressed the Romans before this.

Brutus placed some conditions while allowing Antony to address the people of Rome that Antony could talk all good about Caesar but would not blame any of the conspirators. He was asked to tell the Romans that he spoke with the permission of Brutus and his mates and will speak from the platform only after Brutus' speech.

(ii) 'It' refers to Caesar's will.

Antony was not willing to read Caesar's will as according to him if he read out the will of Caesar on hearing its contents, the people of Rome would not be able to bear and be maddened with rage as the will was in their favour showing the large heartedness of Caesar.

(iii) As per the will, the people of Rome were to inherit all the property of Caesar. Antony also told the people that the will bore Caesar's seal and signature. He further informs that as per the will Caesar had left seventy-five drachmas to be inherited by each Roman and had left for the people of Rome- all his walks, his private arbours and new-planted orchards on the side of river Tiber and these he had left for common pleasures as well as recreation of all.

(iv) While addressing the commoners of Rome, Antony says the above line to that they are not heartless humans, but rather full of emotions, unlike wood or stone. He used this statement to represent his right judgement of the Romans and to evoke their emotions.

This statement stands as a striking contrast to the thoughts of the Republicans, as earlier in the play we saw Marullus and Flavius, the supporters of Pompey addressing the commoners

as 'blocks' and 'stones', disrespecting them, which also shows how the political leaders have power over the ones who elect them in the Republican set up.

(v) Antony appears to be a very capable orator though he says he isn't one. It is through his oratory prowess that he brings the crowd to act as per his desires. He pretends to turn them away from "mutiny and rage" while cunningly leading them to the same. By referring to the conspirators as "honourable" and by saying that he would wrong himself, rather than doing wrong to the conspirators, he wins the trust of the conspirators and wins the opportunity to continue descending to the level of the crowd to triumph over Brutus. He also appeals to their greed by referring to Caesar's will left behind to the people of Rome. Greed won them to the view that Brutus and Cassius would have cheated them of their inheritance.

While Brutus stays on the pulpit, Antony enters their ring and draws the attention of all his audience. By making a direct visual appeal, Antony refers to the blood-stained "rents" in Caesar's toga, ending with the wound inflicted by "well-beloved" Brutus and his powerful words madden the crowd, helping him triumph over Brutus.