

QUESTION BANK
ENGLISH LITERATURE
CLASS – X

ACT IV Scene 1

CHOOSE THE CORRECT ALTERNATIVE:

1. What do Mark Antony and Octavius do after Mark Antony's eulogy for Caesar?
 - (a) Make a list of all the men who will die to avenge Caesar.
 - (b) Reminisce about their fond memories of Caesar.
 - (c) Make a plan to escape Rome.
 - (d) Create a military plan to attack those members of the Senate who have fled.

2. What do Mark Antony, Octavius and Lepidus form when they meet after Caesar's assassination?
 - (a) A triumvirate
 - (b) A band of brothers
 - (c) A sacred oath
 - (d) A three-man government

3. What does Marc Antony send Lepidus to fetch after he has told him his new plan in Act 4, Scene 1?
 - (a) Caesar's money pouch
 - (b) Caesar's Will
 - (c) Caesar's property listings
 - (d) Caesar's sword

4. What does Marc Antony want to change in Caesar's will after conversing with Octavius?
 - (a) The amount of money given to his beneficiaries.
 - (b) The property inheritances.
 - (c) The amount of money given to the citizens of Rome.
 - (d) The placement of his title.

5. How does Mark Antony feel about Lepidus as a person?

- (a) He thinks he is a good man and a seasoned soldier.
- (b) He dislikes him.
- (c) He trusts him completely.
- (d) He is jealous of him.

6. How does Octavius feel about Lepidus as a person?

- (a) He is jealous of him.
- (b) He dislikes him.
- (c) He thinks he is a good man and a seasoned soldier.
- (d) He trusts him completely.

7. What does Mark Antony compare Lepidus to after he leaves the meeting with Antony and Octavius?

- (a) His horse
- (b) Caesar
- (c) His standard
- (d) His wife

8. What are Cassius and Brutus doing while Mark Antony and Octavius are talking in Act 4, Scene 1?

- (a) Begging forgiveness
- (b) Forming an army
- (c) Praying to the Gods for victory
- (d) Fleeing Rome

9. What are Mark Antony's plans in Act 4, Scene 1 made to accomplish?

- (a) Avenging Caesar's death
- (b) Keeping peace
- (c) Gaining power
- (d) Strengthening Rome

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

Extract – 1.

Antony : I have seen more days than you;
 And though we lay these honours on this man,
 To ease ourselves of divers sland'rous loads,
 He shall but bear them as the ass bears gold,
 To groan and sweat under the business,
 Either led or driven, as we point the way;
 And having brought our treasure where we will,
 Then take we down his load, and turn him off,
 Like to the empty ass, to shake his ears,
 And graze in commons

Q. I. Explain, "I have seen more days than you." To whom does Antony say this? Why?

Ans. Antony refers to his seniority in age as compared to Octavius who was only twenty years of age at that time. Antony was older and an experienced general trained by Caesar. Antony says this to Octavius when the latter questions him that why did he take Lepidus' vote on the list of the names of people to be executed when he considered Lepidus to possess less merit as compared to them to be a ruler. Antony then assures Octavius that he should not worry about such decisions as Antony, who was more experienced, knew what duty to assign and to whom.

Q. II. Who is "this" man? What honours have been given to him? Why have they been given?

Ans. The man they are talking about is Lepidus. Lepidus had been included by Antony and Octavius in the Triumvirate which was governing Rome after Caesar's death. Even though Lepidus is a remarkable military general and had helped them in taking control of Rome, as if it was their inheritance, yet Antony was not impressed by him. He did not consider him influential in political matters and having the aptitude of Antony and Octavius. Antony regards him as unfit to be a partner with them in the government of the Roman world and suitable only to be sent on errands. Till now Antony had included him in the Triumvirate only to use him as a tool to execute the unpleasant duties concerning the list of the proscription and then to dismiss him after his purpose had been served.

Q. III. Explain the comparison of this person with an ass.

Ans. Antony has a poor opinion of Lepidus. He considers Lepidus useless and unfit to be their partner in the government of the Roman world. He feels he is suitable only for carrying out errands. Antony compares him to an ass who carries gold, groaning and perspiring under his heavy burden, unable to realise the value of his burden and ready to go wherever he is directed. Similarly, Antony tells Octavius that they would use Lepidus to carry out the difficult responsibility of the proscription and the executions that had to be done. He would get all the abuse for the onerous responsibility of killing those who had helped Brutus. Once he had carried their load and fulfilled their purpose they

would take away the responsibility of being their partner in the government of Rome and send him away, like a donkey deprived of its valuable burden of gold, sent to graze on the public land.

Q. IV. What is revealed of Antony's character in these lines?

Ans. Antony is revealed as a man who shrewdly and selfishly uses others to achieve his aim. He had at first used the mob now he uses Lepidus. His greed for power is exposed in its naked and ugly form. He is ruthless and cunning, ready to barter away even lives in his quest to become the ruler of Rome. He looks down upon his fellow men who had helped him in achieving his goals. The less people who would share the power with him the better it would be for him.

Extract – 2.

Octavius: You may do your will;
 But he's a tried and valiant soldier.

Antony: So is my horse, Octavius, and for that
 I do appoint him store of provender.
 It is a creature that I teach to fight,
 To wind, to stop, to run directly on,
 His corporal motion govern'd by my spirit.

Q. I. Why does Octavius say, "you may do your will"? What was Antony's 'will'?

Ans. After the death of Caesar the control and government of the Roman world had passed into the hands of the Triumvirate, namely Antony, Octavius and Lepidus. Antony regarded Lepidus useless and suitable only to carry the burden of responsibilities like the proscription and execution which would bring them slander for their cruelty. He tells Octavius that they would tolerate Lepidus only as long as it suited their purpose and then discard him as he was not fit to be their partner in governing the Roman world. Octavius initially reminds Antony that Lepidus was a good military general and Caesar's friend but then he agrees with Antony and both selfishly decide to use Lepidus as a tool and then discard after use. Their struggle for power is revealed in its ugly form devoid of friendliness and principles.

Q. II. For what qualities is Antony's horse like this person? Explain the point of comparison here.

Ans. Antony says that like Lepidus even his horse has proved his bravery in battle but for that he is only provided a supply of food, not a share in the government of Rome. He explains that he had trained his horse to fight, to stop or to run in a particular direction and all the motions of the horse's body were controlled by the spirit and will of Antony. Similarly, Lepidus was given certain duties and responsibilities but he would remain under the control of Antony to be disposed of in whatever way he desired. He was to be trained, ordered about, kept and then rejected, devoid of any partnership in the government. Someone to be used and then rejected.

Q. III. What is revealed of Octavius' character in these lines?

Ans. Octavius reveals himself as a man who has a will of his own and is not afraid to express his opinions even if they disagree with those of Antony. He is young but shrewd and cautiously watches

Antony in their struggle for power. He is not intimidated by Antony's age or his experience but can hold his own. But we see that he is cold and ruthless like Antony and ready to barter lives to achieve their aim.

Q. IV. What do we understand of Antony's nature here? What sort of a position did he have in the group at this time? Why?

Ans. Antony appears as a ruthless and cunning dictator who wants to gain control of the maximum power in governing Rome. He looks down upon people like Lepidus who had helped him in his aim. He is selfish and intolerant, ready to discard friends once they have served his purpose. His greed for power is revealed in its ugly form where principles and friendship are sacrificed to achieve the dictatorship of Rome.

ACT IV Scene 2

CHOOSE THE CORRECT ALTERNATIVE;

1. Where does Brutus set up camp when he leaves Rome?

- (a) Gaul
- (b) Sanford
- (c) Sardis
- (d) Italy

2. What does Brutus do after he leaves Rome?

- (a) Begins creating an army.
- (b) Convinces Cassius to make an attack on Rome.
- (c) Writes to Marc Antony to try and win him over.
- (d) Devises his plan.

3. What is the name of Brutus' most trusted servant?

- (a) Artemidorus
- (b) Cinna
- (c) Lucius
- (d) Pindarius

4. What is Brutus most worried about after leaving Rome?

- (a) He cannot find enough men to fight with him.
- (b) He has not heard from his wife since he left Rome.
- (c) He thinks Cassius's feelings towards him have changed.
- (d) He is afraid Marc Antony will try and kill him.

5. What news does Lucius bring Brutus from Cassius in Act 4, Scene 2?

- (a) Cassius was a nervous wreck.
- (b) Cassius was warm and welcoming.
- (c) Cassius is making plans to join Brutus in his camp.
- (d) Cassius was polite, but cold.

6. Who comes with Lucius to deliver his news from Cassius to Brutus?

- (a) Artemidorus
- (b) Cinna
- (c) Pindarus
- (d) Lepidus

7. What is the first thing Cassius does when he arrives at Brutus' camp in Act 4, Scene 1?

- (a) Embraces Brutus warmly.
- (b) Delivers grave news from Rome.
- (c) Accuses Brutus of doing him wrong.
- (d) Faints from exhaustion.

8. What does Brutus tell Cassius he never does when Cassius arrives at his camp?

- (a) Grows weary of the truth and right.
- (b) Tell falsehoods.
- (c) Wrongs his enemies - much less his friends.
- (d) Weakens his regard for the Republic.

9. What does Brutus beg Cassius to not do when he arrives at Brutus's camp?

- (a) Question his loyalty.

- (b) Lose hope.
- (c) Quarrel in front of the men.
- (d) Allow himself to grow weak before the battle.

10. Where does Brutus take Cassius when he arrives at Brutus's camp?

- (a) Into his personal tent.
- (b) To the mess tent.
- (c) On a walk through the country.
- (d) To Cassius's own personal quarters.

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

Extract – 1.

Brutus.: When love begins to sicken and decay
 It useth an enforced ceremony
 There are no tricks in plain and simple faith;

Q. I. To whom does Brutus say these words? When? Where?

Ans. Brutus says these words to Lucilius who had returned after visiting Cassius. He had informed Brutus about the noticeable change in Cassius' behavior. He tells him that Cassius' welcome lacked his former warmth and friendly confidence. They are standing in front of Brutus' tent in their camp near Sardis in Asia Minor.

Q. II. Who are present when he speaks to this person?

Ans. Besides Brutus and Lucilius the others present are Titinius, Pindarus, Lucius and some soldiers.

Q. III. To whom is Brutus referring? What has happened to their relationship now? Why?

Ans. Brutus is referring to Cassius who at one time was his close friend and supporter. The friendship between Brutus and Cassius has soured over a period of time because both are ill-suited to each other in their attitudes, temperaments and capabilities. Brutus criticizes Cassius in front of his subordinates and Cassius also accuses Brutus of having harmed him. Their cordial relationship is falling apart and they are unable to have a well coordinated and healthy working relationship. Bitterness is eating into their relationship.

Q. IV. Paraphrase the given lines.

Ans. At the time when love and friendship begin to weaken and die, an unnatural formal politeness creeps in. There is no subterfuge and falsehood in plain and simple honest friendships.

Q. V. What information evokes this response from Brutus? What does it reveal about his state of mind?

Ans. Lucilius informs Brutus that when he visited Cassius he had noticed that Cassius was courteous but his behaviour lacked its former warmth and friendliness. Brutus is upset to hear about Cassius' changed attitude. He resorts to pessimistic philosophy showing that he is tense and afraid that Cassius is no longer a dependable friend. He is angry with Cassius. He is strained and losing his calm.

Extract – 2.

Cassius: Most noble brother, you have done me wrong.

Q. I. To whom does Cassius say these words? On what occasion?

Ans. Cassius accuses Brutus of having wronged him. He has reached Brutus' camp at Sardis in Asia Minor after recruiting armies from various provinces.

Q. II. What reply is made to this accusation?

Ans. Brutus swears by the gods and denies having wronged Cassius. He says that he had never wronged even his enemies so how could he harm his friends and supporters.

Q. III. What was the wrong referred to here?

Ans. Cassius refers to his appeal made in the favour of Lucius Pella whom Brutus had condemned for taking bribes. But Brutus had disregarded Cassius appeal in the letters he had written to Brutus and this had angered Cassius. He felt wronged by Brutus who had rejected his entreaties.

Q. IV. What mood is Cassius in? What was his relationship with his "noble brother" before this?

Ans. Cassius is upset and angry with Brutus for rejecting his appeals made in Lucius Pella's favour. Until now Cassius had admired Brutus and had been his close friend and supporter. He had convinced Brutus to join him in the conspiracy to kill Caesar. He had never publicly disagreed with Brutus before this. Infact even when Brutus had decided to allow Antony to speak at Caesar's funeral Cassius had expressed his doubts regarding Antony's sincerity. But when Brutus had insisted Cassius had agreed without any strong objections. He had always followed the decisions taken by Brutus till then. They had been co-conspirators and allies.

Q. V. What is the significance of the exchange?

Ans. This accusatory exchange shows the deteriorating relationship between Brutus and Cassius. They had been close friends and conspirators of Caesar's murder. They are losing their calm and dignity. Both hurl accusations at each other and are quarrelling in public. They are losing faith in each other and the cracks in their relationship are widening. Their ill-suited temperaments, attitudes and abilities are proving to be a hurdle in a smooth working relationship.

ACT IV Scene 3

CHOOSE THE CORRECT ALTERNATIVE;

1. What did Brutus do to wrong Cassius in Act 4, Scene 3?

- (a) Didn't give Cassius as much power as he wanted.
- (b) Never praised him in public for his part in the assassination.
- (c) Ignored a letter of defense for a man accused of taking bribes.
- (d) Took over the assassination plot.

2. What does Brutus accuse Cassius of after Cassius has explained in Act 4, Scene 3 how Brutus wronged him?

- (a) Having a fickle spirit.
- (b) Caring too much for power and praise.
- (c) Having a weak constitution.
- (d) Having an itchy palm when it comes to money.

3. What does Cassius do at the climax of his argument Brutus at Brutus's camp?

- (a) Breaks down in tears.
- (b) Slaps Brutus across the face.
- (c) Bares his chest and asks Brutus to stab him.
- (d) Spits on Brutus.

4. What does Brutus do after the climax of his argument with Cassius?

- (a) Calms down and forgives Cassius.
- (b) Slaps Cassius back.
- (c) Wipes his face and kisses Cassius on the cheek.
- (d) Comforts Cassius and promises to be true always.

5. Who tries to enter the tent to calm the fight between Cassius and Brutus?

- (a) A shepherd
- (b) A servant
- (c) A soldier
- (d) A poet

6. How did Portia die?

- (a) She drank poison
- (b) She swallowed fire
- (c) She stabbed herself
- (d) She jumped off the Senate House

7. Where is Marc Antony's army stationed in Act 5, Scene 1?

- (a) Phillipi
- (b) Gaul
- (c) Rome
- (d) Pompeii

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

Extract – 1.

Brutus: I did send
 To you for gold to pay my legions,
 Which you denied me; was that done like Cassius?

Q. I. What had Brutus accused Cassius of doing just before this?

Ans. Brutus had accused Cassius of accepting bribes and gold from the Sardians to make appointments. He angrily accuses Cassius of using underhand and vile methods to raise funds and money for his troops. He insults Cassius by saying that he had "an itching palm, To sell and mart your offices for gold."

Q. II. What does he accuse Cassius of in these lines? Explain, "was that done like Cassius?"

Ans. In the above lines Brutus accuses Cassius of refusing to pay him gold for the salary of his troops. It is ironical that Brutus had earlier condemned Cassius for raising money by "vile means" but now is upset with Cassius for not giving him money to pay his troops. He feels that Cassius is purposely not

giving him money for his soldiers and tells him that it was an act unworthy of a man of Cassius status especially when he was Brutus friend.

Q. III. What did Brutus and Cassius need money for? What "legions" does he refer to here?

Ans. Brutus and Cassius needed money to pay for supplies and to pay their soldiers. The "legions" referred to here are their troops, the forces raised by Brutus from the Roman states and kingdoms in Asia Minor. These forces or legions had been gathered to face the armies of Antony and Octavius.

Q. IV. How do these lines reveal the confusion in Brutus' mind?

Ans. The above lines reveal that Brutus is confused about his abstract code of ethics and the reality of survival. His concepts of honour, nobility and integrity are praiseworthy qualities but they are not practical in a soldier and can make a man overbearing, self-righteous and muddle-headed. His priorities get confused. On one hand he condemns Cassius for collecting money by "vile means" and on the other he wants to take the same money to pay his troops. His values contradict his needs and are conflicting with the reality of his requirements and responsibilities.

Q. V. How did this quarrel end? How do each of them explain away their tempers?

Ans. The quarrel ends when Cassius becomes emotional and expresses pain that Brutus, a dear friend, should hate and rebuke him. He denies having refused the money. He breaks down and bemoans the rift in their friendship and wants Brutus to kill him with the dagger he offers him. He despairs that he does not want to live anymore because he is "hated by one he loves". Cassius pleads with Brutus to bear with his ill-temper in the future as it was a fault he had inherited from his mother. Brutus also admits that he had insulted Cassius in a fit of bad temper and in reality was a man as gentle as a lamb. His temper was only short-lived and he actually meant no harm to Cassius. He loved him as a brother and in future would ignore Cassius and leave him alone when he was in a bad mood.

Extract – 2.

Brutus: Impatient of my absence,
 And grief that young Octavius with Mark Antony
 Have made themselves so strong; for with her death
 That tidings came. With this she fell distraught,
 And, her attendants absent, swallow'd fire.

Q. I. To whom does Brutus say these words? Why? Where?

Ans. These words are spoken by Brutus to Cassius after they have reconciled their differences and ended their quarrel. They are in Brutus' tent in his camp at Sardis and continuing their discussion over a bowl of wine. Brutus tells Cassius that he had lost control and become angry because he was burdened with sorrows. Cassius advises him to follow his own philosophy of bearing pain and misfortune stoically. Brutus then tells Cassius about Portia's death. Cassius feels sorry for his friend and praises him for his fortitude and self-control. Brutus then explains her death in the above lines.

Q. II. About whom is Brutus speaking here? Describe the circumstances of this person's death.

Ans. Brutus is speaking about Portia, his wife's death. He explains that Portia had died because she could not bear the long separation from him as she loved him very much. Her anxiety had increased when she came to know that Antony and Octavius were reinforcing themselves to fight Brutus. Finally unable to bear her burdens of despair and anxiety she had committed suicide by consuming a corrosive poison.

Q. III. In what way had Mark Antony and Octavius made themselves strong?

Ans. Mark Antony and Octavius had raised strong armies and had gathered support by forming dependable and strong alliances. They had recruited new soldiers and harnessed the support and friendship of many strong allies. Antony and Octavius had convened meetings to discuss methods of exposing hidden dangers and ways of dealing with open problems.

Q. IV. What effect did this piece of news have on Cassius?

Ans. Cassius is deeply affected to hear of Brutus' loss. He knew of the bond of love that existed between Portia and Brutus, he grieves for Brutus' plight and feels guilty for quarrelling with him at a time when he was suffering such deep sorrow. He wonders at Brutus' immense self-control and fortitude to bear such sorrow with courage.

Q. V. How does Brutus endure this person's death? What is revealed of his character with regard to this incident?

Ans. In spite of loving Portia deeply Brutus bears his loss without giving away his feelings in public. The only sign he shows that he is upset is the loss of control he displays in his quarrel with Cassius. It is only in private that he tells Cassius casually about Portia's death. Brutus' stoicism and moral courage at bearing the pain of Portia's death is commendable. He has managed to discipline his emotions so well that he reveals great fortitude in bearing intense pain and despair. Brutus endures with "patience" Portia's death whom he loved deeply. He controls his emotions and suffers inwardly without any public display of grief. Brutus reveals that he has an iron control over his intense emotions and enlists our sympathies for his tragic loss.

Cassius: This it is;
 'Tis better that the enemy seek us;
 So shall he waste his means, weary his soldiers;
 Doing himself offence, whilst we, lying still,
 Are full of rest, defence, and nimbleness.

Q. I. To whom does Cassius say these words? Why? Where?

Ans. Cassius says these words to Brutus when Brutus suggests that as Antony and Octavius are coming to fight with them at Philippi so they should march with their armies to meet in battle at Philippi. Cassius, Brutus and Messala are seated in Brutus' tent at his camp at Sardis.

Q. II. What do the words, "This it is" refer to?

Ans. Cassius refers to his reason for not marching to Philippi to fight the armies of Antony and Octavius. He tells Brutus that it would be better to let their enemy, that is, Antony and Octavius search for them. In doing so they would use their resources and tire their soldiers. This would prove to be their disadvantage. Meanwhile they would be strong and their soldiers fresh, abounding with defensive power and mobility of troops.

Q. III. What important topics are they discussing? What had Brutus suggested?

Ans. They are discussing the number of senators that have been killed by the triumvirate through their list of proscription. They have come to know that Cicero has also been killed. Messala inquires about Portia's strange death. Brutus then asks them their opinions about marching along with their forces to engage in battle at Philippi with the armies of the Triumvirate. Brutus suggests that they should fight Antony and Octavius' armies at Philippi.

Q. IV. What reasons does Cassius give to support his opinion? Is he right?

Ans. Cassius tries to convince Brutus that it would be wiser not to march with their armies to fight the Triumvirate at Philippi. He puts forward strong reasons to dissuade Brutus. Cassius feels that it would be more advantageous for them to let the enemy look for them instead. The enemy forces would use their resources and their soldiers would get tired out searching for them. Meanwhile their resources would be unexhausted as their soldiers would be fresh and full of strength, strong in their defensive powers and with their mobility intact. Their supplies would be in plenty. Cassius is proved right in the light of later events.

Q. V. What argument does the person spoken to present on this topic? Is he right?

Ans. Brutus is the person Cassius speaks to. Brutus tells Cassius that the people between Sardis and Philippi are with them under compulsion and have joined them reluctantly. When the armies of the enemy march through these areas they would be able to recruit more soldiers. Hence the enemy force would be refreshed and reinforced. So it would be wiser on their part to deprive their enemy of these advantages by meeting their forces in battle at Philippi. This is Brutus' last major misjudgement and their defeat proves the blunder he had made.

Q. VI. What is revealed of Cassius' character through this extract?

Ans. Once again Cassius reveals that he is a shrewd tactician and military general. The suggestion he makes in the above lines depicts his astute mind and understanding of strategic moves. He not only reveals his prowess as a military commander but also as a judge of human character. If only Brutus would have accepted his suggestions they could have averted their defeat and personal tragedy. But it is tragic irony that Brutus fails to recognise the military genius of Cassius and Cassius out of respect for his friend follows his leadership even though he is an abler military commander.

The Glove and The Lions

CHOOSE THE CORRECT ALTERNATIVE;

1. Which of the following lines contains the same literary device as the one in the line-

‘Ramped and roared the lions.....’

(a) And the far sad glorious vision I see

(b) And here and there a floamy flake

© I hope to see my Pilot face to face

(d) Lo! thus I triumph like a king

2. In the poem , what was the King’s mood?

(a) cheerful

(b) boastful

© sincere

(d) proud

PASSAGE–1

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

Ramped and roared the lions, with horrid laughing jaws;
They bit, they glared, gave blows like beams, a wind went with their paws;
With wallowing might and stifled roar they rolled on one another;
Till all the pit with sand and mane was in a thunderous smother;
The bloody foam above the bars came whisking through the air;
Said Francis then, "Faith, gentlemen, we're better here than there."

(i) What kind of royal sport was in progress? Who were watching it?

Answer:

A fierce lion fight was in progress in the royal arena. It was being watched by King Francis of France, his courtiers, noblemen, ladies and other members of the royal court.

(ii) Who stole the heart of King Francis? In what state of mind was he?

Answer:

The beautiful and lively Count De Lorge's beloved lady stole King Francis's heart. The King was deeply attracted by her beauty and charm and kept admiring her instead of paying full attention to the lion fight.

(iii) Briefly describe the lion's fight.

Answer:

The lions fought with tremendous fury. They roared loudly, bared their terrible jaws, bit and struck each other with great force. They rolled over one another in the pit, raising clouds of sand and flying manes. Blood-stained foam splashed through the air, making the fight violent and terrifying.

(iv) What did the air carry afar? What did it reveal?

Answer:

The air carried the bloody foam thrown up from the fighting lions. It revealed the extreme ferocity, violence and brutality of the battle taking place inside the pit.

(v) Comment on the king's remark. Who was attracted by his comment?

Answer:

The King's remark, "Faith, gentlemen, we're better here than there," was humorous and ironic. He admitted that it was much safer to watch the fight from outside the cage than to be inside it. His remark caught the attention of Count De Lorge's beloved lady, who soon conceived the idea of testing her lover's courage by throwing her glove into the lions' pit.

PASSAGE-2

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

De Lorge's love o'erheard the King, a beauteous lively dame

With smiling lips and sharp bright eyes, which always seemed the same;

She thought, the Count my lover is brave as brave can be;

He surely would do wondrous things to show his love of me;

King, ladies, lovers, all look on; the occasion is divine;

I'll drop my glove, to prove his love; great glory will be mine.

(i) What kind of show was witnessed by the king and his courtiers? What had distracted the king's attention?

Answer:

King Francis and his courtiers were witnessing a fierce fight between two lions arranged as a royal entertainment. However, the King's attention was distracted by the extraordinary beauty and charm of Count De Lorge's beloved lady. He admired her smiling lips and bright eyes more than the spectacle of the lions.

(ii) What did De Lorge's beloved think about him? What was she sure of?

Answer:

De Lorge's beloved believed that he was the bravest of all men. She was completely confident that he loved her deeply and would perform even the most dangerous and extraordinary feat to prove his love for her.

(iii) What thought struck her? What was her real intention?

Answer:

She suddenly thought of testing her lover's devotion. She decided to drop her glove into the lions' pit, believing that De Lorge would immediately risk his life to retrieve it. Her real intention was to obtain public admiration and glory by making everyone witness the proof of her lover's devotion and courage.

(iv) What happened when the lady threw her glove into the pit and smiled at her lover?

Answer:

The lady deliberately dropped her glove into the lions' pit and smiled confidently at Count De Lorge. Understanding her silent command, De Lorge immediately rose from his seat, bowed before the King, and, without hesitation, entered the lions' pit to recover the glove. His fearless act amazed everyone present and demonstrated his extraordinary courage.

When Great Trees Fall

CHOOSE THE CORRECT ALTERNATIVE;

1. In the poem which of the following options denotes that the impact of fallen trees is felt far and wide?

- (a) Mighty elephants lumber to safety
- (b) Rock on distant hills shudder
- © Lions hunker down in tall grasses
- (d) Mind escapes to the dark, cold caves

Ans- (b)

2. What does the poet regret after losing someone significant?

- (a) Unkept promises
- (b) Shared experiences
- © Words unsaid
- (d) Memories not made

Ans- c

PASSAGE – 1

When great trees fall
in forests,
small things recoil into silence,
their senses
eroded beyond fear.

Answers

(i) What does the fall of great trees symbolise in the poem?

The fall of great trees symbolises the death of great people or noble souls whose lives have a deep influence on others.

(ii) What happens to big animals when great trees fall?

When great trees fall, big animals stumble and are shaken, reacting to the sudden disturbance in the forest.

(iii) What happens to small things when great trees fall?

Small things recoil into silence, becoming stunned and motionless with fear.

(iv) Explain the meaning of 'Their senses / eroded beyond fear.'

It means that the small creatures are so shocked and overwhelmed that they become numb. Their fear is so great that they lose their normal awareness and ability to react.

(v) When great men die, what kind of 'clarity' do we have all of a sudden?

When great people die, we suddenly gain a clear understanding of their goodness, wisdom, influence, and the value of their presence in our lives. We realise how much they meant to us.

PASSAGE – 2

Our memory, suddenly sharpened,
examines,
gnaws on kind words
unsaid,
promised walks
never taken.

Answers

(i) What happens when great trees fall, according to the poet?

When great trees fall, the whole world is shaken. People are filled with grief, silence, and a deep sense of loss as they struggle to accept the death of great souls.

(ii) Why does it become difficult to breathe when great souls die?

It becomes difficult to breathe because their death leaves us emotionally devastated and overwhelmed with sorrow, making us feel suffocated by grief.

(iii) What do we come to remember suddenly when great souls die?

We suddenly remember the kind words we never spoke, the love we never expressed, and the moments and promises we never fulfilled with them.

(iv) In what state of mind is the speaker here?

The speaker is grief-stricken, reflective, regretful, and deeply sorrowful after the loss of a great soul.

(v) Explain the phrase 'promised walks never taken' in its context.

The phrase refers to plans, meetings, and moments that were promised but never happened because the person died before they could be fulfilled. It expresses regret over lost opportunities and unfulfilled relationships.

A Considerable Speck

CHOOSE THE CORRECT ALTERNATIVE;

1. What is the fate of the mite that the poet decides?

(a) Let it lie and sleep

(b) Crush it under his pen

© Chase it away from the paper

(d) Trap it and throw it out

Read the following extract and answer the follow:

PASSAGE – 1

This was no dust speck by my breathing blown,
But unmistakably a living mite
With inclinations it could call its own.
It paused as with suspicion of my pen,
And then came racing wildly on again
To where my manuscript was not yet dry;
Then paused again and drank or smelt—
With loathing, for again it turned to fly.

(i) What did the poet wrongly observe about the speck?

The poet initially thought that the tiny speck was just an inanimate piece of dust being blown across his sheet of paper by his own breath, before realizing it was actually a living mite moving on its own.

(ii) Why did the mite fly away again?

The mite turned to run/fly away because it drank or smelt the wet ink on the manuscript and found it repulsive and distasteful ("with loathing").

(iii) 'It paused as with suspicion of my pen' — Why did the speck pause?

The speck paused because it appeared suspicious and cautious of the poet's moving pen, perceiving it as a potential threat or obstacle in its path.

(iv) What did the mite do around the ink?

Around the wet ink on the manuscript, the mite paused, tasted or smelt the ink, expressed disgust at the smell/taste, and quickly turned around to escape.

(v) What does the word 'inclinations' mean in the context of the poem?

In the context of the poem, 'inclinations' refers to having an independent will, mind, preferences, or desires, showing that even the tiny creature possesses intelligence and self-direction.

PASSAGE – 2

But this poor microscopic item now!
Since it was nothing I knew evil of
I let it lie there till I hope it slept.
I have a mind myself and recognise
Mind when I meet with it in any guise

No one can know how glad I am to find

On any sheet the least display of mind.

Questions & Answers

(i) What fate does the poet decide for the mite?

Answer: The poet decides to spare the mite's life. Instead of squishing or wiping it off the paper, he lets it lie undisturbed on the sheet of paper until he hopes it sleeps.

(ii) Why does the poet make that decision?

Answer: The poet makes this decision because he realizes the tiny creature poses no harm ("nothing I knew evil of") and, more importantly, it demonstrates intelligence, self-preservation, and independent thought ("mind"), which he deeply respects.

(iii) The poet was glad about something. What was it?

Answer: The poet was glad to discover signs of genuine intelligence and thought ("the least display of mind") on a sheet of paper, even if it came from a tiny, microscopic mite.

(iv) Earlier in the poem, what does the poet say he doesn't like?

Answer: Earlier in the poem, the poet expresses a dislike for writing or works that lack true intelligence, original thought, or meaningful content (senseless writing or mindless conformity).

(v) What similarity does the poet think he and the mite have? What made the poet realise this b

Answer:

Similarity: The poet believes that both he and the mite possess a "mind"—the capacity to think, reason, feel fear, and make decisions independently.

What made him realise it: He realized this similarity when he observed the microscopic insect's behavior on the paper: it moved deliberately, ran around frantically to avoid the wet ink, stopped, and hesitated in a way that showed calculated self-preservation rather than mere random instinct.

PROSE

The Elevator

CHOOSE THE CORRECT ALTERNATIVE;

1. Martin was scared of the old lady because

(a) she was very loud

(b) she constantly stared at him

© She had piggy eyes

(d) both (b) and (c)

Ans- (d)

2. What was Martin's biggest fear?

(a) going down the stairs

(b) getting bullied at school

(c) getting scolded by his father

(d) getting stuck in an elevator

Ans- (d)

Extract:

"The stairs were no better. Martin tried them one day after school. There were no windows, and the lights were not working. Martin's footsteps echoed behind him on the cement, as though there was another person climbing, getting closer. By the time he reached his home on the seventeenth floor, he was gasping for breath.

Martin's father worked at home. He wanted to know why Martin was out of breath. "Why didn't you take the elevator?" he asked, frowning at Martin. You're not only skinny and weak and bad at sports, his face seemed to say, but you are also a coward. After that, Martin always took the elevator. He would have to get used to it, he told himself, just like he got used to being bullied at school".

Questions & Answers

(i) Why was Martin's father at home? What did he ask Martin? Pick out the word in the above extract that expresses his feelings about Martin's response.

Answer: Martin's father was at home because he worked from home. He asked Martin why he didn't take the elevator. The word is "frowning".

(ii) Why did Martin not like climbing the stairs? How many floors did Martin climb to reach home?

Answer: Martin did not like climbing the stairs because there were no windows, the lights were not working, and the echoing of his own footsteps on the cement made him feel as though another person was behind him, getting closer. Additionally, climbing so many flights left him exhausted and gasping for breath. Martin climbed 17 floors (seventeenth floor) to reach home.

(iii) What did Martin perceive from the looks his father gave him?

Answer: From his father's frown and expression, Martin perceived that his father looked down on him, thinking he was not only skinny, weak, and bad at sports, but also a coward.

(iv) Did Martin take the elevator the next time? Why did he decide to do so?

Answer: Yes, Martin took the elevator after that. He decided to take it because he felt compelled to conquer his fear and prove he wasn't a coward to his father, telling himself he would just have to get used to it, much like he got used to being bullied at school.

(v) Martin was not able to tell his father about his problems. Why? What does this say about his father?

Answer: Martin could not tell his father about his fears because his father was critical, unsympathetic, and demanding. Martin felt judged and feared further disapproval or ridicule from him. This shows that his father is insensitive, harsh, lacking in empathy, and fails to provide a safe, supportive environment for his anxious son.

Extract:

"Martin started running down the stairs. The stairs were dark and he fell. His father was silent on the way to the hospital, disappointed and angry with him for being a coward and a fool. Martin had broken his leg and needed to walk on crutches. He could not use the stairs now. Was that why the fat lady had smiled? Did she know what would happen?

At least his father was with him in the elevator on the way back from the hospital. There was no room for the fat lady to get in, and if she did, his father would see her and maybe he would understand. When he got home, he could stay in the apartment for a few days. The doctor said that he had to rest as much as possible. Martin felt quite safe from the fat lady now.

"Oh, I almost forgot," his father reached out and pressed number nine.

"What are you doing?" asked Martin, trying not to sound afraid.

"I promised to visit Mrs. Ullman," said his father, looking at his watch as he stepped out of the elevator.

Questions & Answers

(i) Why was Martin's father disappointed in him? What was his general attitude towards Martin?

Answer: Martin's father was disappointed because Martin panicked and ran down the stairs in terror, falling and breaking his leg. His father viewed this panic as a sign of cowardice and foolishness. His father's general attitude was cold, critical, and unsympathetic. He frequently looked down on Martin for being weak, skinny, bad at sports, and easily frightened, rather than offering understanding or support.

(ii) Why was Martin running down the stairs?

Answer: Martin was running down the stairs because he had just seen the strange, sinister fat lady in the elevator again on the fourteenth floor and was terrified of being trapped inside the small space with her.

(iii) Describe the staircase Martin was using.

Answer: The staircase was dark, poorly lit (the lights were not working), windowless, made of cement, and very steep. Footsteps echoed loudly against the walls, creating a creepy and threatening atmosphere.

(iv) Who is Mrs. Ullman? Why is she important to the story?

Answer: Mrs. Ullman is a neighbor living on the ninth floor of the apartment building whom Martin's father decides to visit. She is crucial to the plot because when Martin's father steps out on the ninth floor to visit her, Martin is left trapped inside the elevator all by himself with his broken leg—leaving him completely helpless when the fat lady enters and stops the elevator between floors.

(v) Do you think Martin's fears were irrational? How do you think he could have overcome them?

Answer: Yes, Martin's fear of the elevator and the fat lady was largely psychological and exaggerated by his anxiety, claustrophobia, and low self-esteem. However, to a young boy living in a dark, imposing building with an unsupportive parent, the fear felt intensely real. He could have overcome his fears by communicating openly with a trusted adult or professional therapist to address his underlying anxiety, gradual exposure (taking the elevator for short distances accompanied by someone supportive), or practicing grounding techniques to manage claustrophobia.

The Girl Who Can

CHOOSE THE CORRECT ALTERNATIVE;

1. When Adjoa thinks of her legs, she is _____.

(a) depressed

(b) excited

© analytical

(d) angry

Ans- ©

2. In the end, Nana appears as

(a) a kill joy

(b) a progressive dynamic woman

© a frustrated woman

(d) making compromise with the way of the world

Ans- (b)

Read the following extract from Ama Ata Aidoo's short story 'The Girl Who Can' and answer the questions that follow.

As far as I could see, there was only one problem. And it had nothing to do with what I knew Nana considered 'problems', or what Maami thinks of as 'the problem'. Maami is my mother. Nana is my mother's mother. And they say I am seven years old. And my problem is that at this seven years of age, there are things I can think in my head, but which maybe, I do not have proper language to speak them out with. And that, I think, is a very serious problem because it is always to decide whether to keep quiet and not say any of the things that come into my head, or say them and get laughed at. Not that it is easy to get any to listen to you, even when you decide to take the risk and say something serious to them.

(i) Who is 'I'? Who are Nana and Maami? Where do they all live?

Answer: 'I' refers to the narrator, Adjoa, a seven-year-old girl. Maami (named Maami Amoaa) is Adjoa's mother, and Nana is her maternal grandmother. They live in a village named Hasodzi in Ghana.

(ii) What are the 'problems' referred to in the extract?

Answer: Nana's and Maami's 'problems': Nana and Maami are primarily concerned with Adjoa's physical appearance—specifically her unusually long and thin legs, which Nana believes are unsuitable for bearing children and carrying solid hips. Adjoa's own problem is an intellectual and expressive one. At seven years old, she has thoughts and ideas in her head, but she lacks the proper words or language to articulate them clearly. Furthermore, whenever she tries to speak her mind, adults either laugh at her or do not take her seriously.

(iii) How did Nana react whenever 'I' expressed her opinions?

Answer: Whenever Adjoa tried to express her opinions or ask questions, Nana would often laugh at her, treat her thoughts as foolish or silly, or mock the way she spoke. Nana did not take a seven-year-old's thoughts seriously, which made Adjoa feel misunderstood and silenced.

(iv) How did 'I' feel about Nana's reaction? What did she start to do as a result?

Answer: Adjoa felt frustrated, hurt, and self-conscious about being laughed at or dismissed whenever she tried to communicate her inner thoughts. She learned to keep quiet and keep her thoughts to herself. Instead of voicing her ideas, she chose silence to avoid being ridiculed by the adults.

(v) What does Nana represent in the story? Explain with examples.

Answer: Traditional Societal Expectations: Nana represents the older, traditional, and conservative viewpoint of rural African society. She measures a woman's worth strictly by traditional gender roles—primarily marriage, fertility, and childbearing.

Fixation on Physical Attributes for Motherhood: She constantly criticizes Adjoa's thin legs because, in her view, legs are meant to support big hips capable of bearing children.

Shift in Perspective (Transformation): Nana also represents the gradual change of traditional mindsets. When Adjoa is chosen to run for her school and wins the district athletics competition, Nana realizes that Adjoa's long legs have immense value beyond traditional childbirth. She becomes proud of Adjoa, demonstrating how traditional views can evolve through modern achievements.

Extract – 2

Read the following extract from Ama Ata Aidoo's short story 'The Girl Who Can' and answer the questions that follow.

"... That 'even though some legs don't have much meat on them, to carry hips.. they can run. Thin legs can run... then who knows?...' I don't know too much about such things. But that's how I was feeling and thinking all along. That surely, one should be able to do other things with legs as well as have them because they can support hips that make babies. Except that I was afraid of saying that sort of thing aloud. Because someone would have told me never, never but NEVER to repeat such words. Or else, they would have laughed so much at what I'd said, they would have cried.

It's much better this way. To have acted it out to show them, although I could not have planned it. As for my mother, she has been speechless as usual."

(i) What did Adjoa change Nana's perspective about? How did she do so?

Answer: Adjoa changed Nana's fixed belief that thin, spindly legs are useless because they cannot support childbearing hips. She proved to Nana that thin legs have value beyond traditional expectations. Adjoa was selected by her school to participate in athletic competitions. By running swiftly and winning first place in district level races, she physically demonstrated the strength and purpose of her legs.

(ii) Why was Nana worried about Adjoa initially? Was her worry resolved?

Answer: Nana was worried because Adjoa had unusually long, thin legs with little meat on them. In Nana's traditional view, a woman needs broad hips and sturdy legs to bear children, and she feared Adjoa would not grow up to fulfill this traditional female role. Yes, her worry was resolved. When Adjoa proved to be a star runner and brought home trophy cups, Nana realized that legs serve other valuable purposes, and she proudly celebrated Adjoa's success.

(iii) Why was Adjoa reluctant to tell everyone other uses of legs?

Answer: Adjoa was reluctant to speak her thoughts aloud because she feared the adults' reaction. She knew that if she expressed her opinion—that legs could be used for things other than carrying childbearing hips—the elders would either reprimand her sternly ("NEVER to repeat such words") or mock and laugh at her until they cried.

(iv) 'She has been speechless as usual' — Who did Adjoa say this about? Why?

Answer: Adjoa said this about her mother, Maami. Maami had always been quiet, submissive, and hesitant to defend herself or Adjoa against Nana's constant criticisms. When Adjoa achieved success as a runner, Maami was overwhelmed with quiet pride and emotion, remaining speechless as was her habit in the face of major events.

(v) Was Adjoa becoming an athlete a blessing in disguise? Why?

Answer: Yes, it was a blessing in disguise.

Silenced Criticism: It permanently ended the persistent criticism and anxiety regarding Adjoa's physical appearance from Nana.

Shifted Traditional Mindsets: It forced Nana to abandon her rigid, traditional views about a woman's worth being tied solely to childbearing and motherhood.

Validation and Empowerment: It allowed Adjoa to express her worth through action rather than words, earning her family's respect and instilling a sense of pride and confidence in both herself and her mother.

THE PEDESTRIAN

Read the following extract from Ray Bradbury's short story 'The Pedestrian' and answer the questions that follow.

"He would stand upon the corner of an intersection and peer down long moonlit avenues of sidewalk in four directions, deciding which way to go, but it really made no difference;"

(i) What was Leonard Mead's occupation? What did he love to do? When is the story set?

Answer: Occupation: Leonard Mead considered himself a writer, though he had been out of work for ten years because books and magazines were no longer bought or read in his society.

What he loved to do: He loved to take long evening walks for hours by himself through the silent, empty streets of the city.

Setting: The story is set in a futuristic society in the year A.D. 2053.

(ii) To what does Mead compare his walk through the empty streets? Mention two reasons he gives for making this comparison.

Answer: Comparison: Leonard Mead compares his walk through the silent, dark streets to walking through a graveyard.

Reasons:

Cottages like tombs: The darkened houses on either side of the street resemble tombstones or tombs, with the people inside glued to their television screens, completely lifeless and inactive.

Faint, ghostly light: The flickering light from the television screens visible through the windows appears like ghostly, flickering lights over grave sites, accompanied by complete silence outside.

(iii) Why had Mead decided to change his footwear from hard-heeled shoes to sneakers?

Answer :He switched from hard-heeled shoes to sneakers because the hard heels made noise on the quiet pavement.

If he wore hard heels, dogs would bark in response to the clicking sound, lights would turn on in the houses, and people would be startled by a person walking outside at night, attracting unwanted suspicion or attention.

(iv) What happened quite suddenly as he was making his way home? What was Mead's immediate reaction?

Answer: What happened: A solitary, automated police car rounded a corner, suddenly shone a fierce white light directly upon him, and commanded him to stop and stand still.

Immediate reaction: Mead was startled and blinded by the glaring light. He stood frozen, squinting at the light and listening as the automated car began questioning him.

(v) Why was Mead taken away by the police car? Would you call this a horror story or a piece of science fiction? Give reasons for your answer.

Answer: Mead was arrested and sent to the Psychiatric Center for Research on Regressive Tendencies because his behavior—walking alone at night for pleasure, not owning a television, and being an unmarried writer—was considered abnormal, anti-social, and rebellious in a dystopian society where citizens are expected to stay indoors watching TV.

Genre Classification: This story is primarily a piece of science fiction.

Reasons:

It is set in a future technological world (year 2053) dominated by mass media and automated technology (an driverless, AI-controlled police car).

It explores futuristic social themes, particularly how technology can isolate human beings, erase individuality, and lead to total social conformity.

Read the following extract from Ray Bradbury's short story 'The Pedestrian' and answer the questions that follow.

He walked like a man suddenly drunk. As he passed the front window of the car he looked in. As he had expected, there was no one in the front seat, no one in the car at all. "Get in." He put his hand to the door and peered into the back seat, which was a little cell, a little black jail with bars. It smelled of riveted steel. It smelled of harsh antiseptic; it smelled too clean and hard and metallic. There was nothing soft there.

"Now if you had a wife to give you an alibi," said the iron voice. "But —"

"Where are you taking me?" The car hesitated, or rather gave a faint whirring click, as if information, somewhere, was dropping card by punch-slotted card under electric eyes. "To the Psychiatric Center for Research on Regressive Tendencies."

He got in. The door shut with a soft thud.

The police car rolled through the night avenues, flashing its dim lights ahead.

They passed one house on one street a moment later, one house in an entire city of houses that were dark, but this one particular house had all of its electric lights brightly lit, every window a loud yellow illumination, square and warm in the cool darkness.

(i) What car did Mr. Mead get inside? Was there anyone inside the car? What does he see when he sits inside it?

Answer: Type of car: Mr. Mead got into an automated, driverless police car.

Presence of anyone inside: No, there was no driver or human officer inside the car—it was completely controlled by artificial intelligence.

What he sees inside: He sees that the back seat resembles a small cell or a mini jail with bars. It feels cold, hard, and metallic, lacking any softness, and smells strongly of riveted steel and harsh antiseptic.

(ii) Why was Mr. Mead arrested? What could have saved him according to the police?

Answer: Why he was arrested: He was arrested for walking alone at night without a legitimate purpose, not owning a television set, being an unmarried writer, and displaying non-conformist behavior in a society where all citizens stay indoors.

What could have saved him: Having a wife to provide an alibi for his activities could have spared him from suspicion and arrest.

(iii) Where was Mr. Mead being taken to? Why?

Answer: Destination: He was being taken to the Psychiatric Center for Research on Regressive Tendencies.

Why: His habit of wandering outside, appreciating nature, and enjoying solitary walks was viewed as socially dangerous, "regressive," and mentally unstable behavior that needed psychological evaluation and correction.

(iv) What did Mr. Mead see on the way to his destination? Does the car acknowledge it too?

Answer: What he saw: As the police car drove down the dark streets, Mr. Mead saw his own house, which stood out because every window was brightly illuminated with warm yellow light, unlike all the other pitch-black houses in the city.

Does the car acknowledge it: No, the police car does not acknowledge or pay any attention to his house, continuing past it silently.

(v) Use one word to describe the type of world the above story is based on. What issues does the author plan to highlight in this story?

Answer: One-word description: Dystopian (or Futuristic).

Issues highlighted by the author:

Dehumanizing Impact of Technology: The loss of genuine human connection and critical thinking due to over-reliance on mass media and automation.

Loss of Individuality and Freedom: How extreme societal conformity suppresses personal freedom, creativity, and simple human pleasures like walking outside.

Isolation in Modern Society: The alienation of individuals in a world where technology replaces face-to-face interaction and human empathy.