



ÉCOLE GLOBALE

INTERNATIONAL GIRLS' SCHOOL

Dehradun

HOLIDAY HOMEWORK - CLASS XB ENGLISH COMMUNICATIVE

Question bank

Literature Reader:

Fiction Unit 1: Two Gentlemen of Verona

Short Answer Questions: (30-40 words, 2 marks each)

1. Why did the boys hate the Germans?
2. The narrator preferred to keep the secret which the boys did not want to reveal. What was the secret and why did the boys want to keep it?
3. In what way does the narrator find both the brothers helpful?
4. Compare and contrast the characters of the two brothers.
5. Describe the situation of the brothers after the war?
6. Give examples of the hard work and determination of the two brothers.
7. Is it proper to call both the brothers 'gentlemen'? Why?
8. Faced with a very serious crisis of their life the two brothers decided to fight it out. What were the other options before them?
9. How does the writer try to repay the two brothers for their help?
10. The Nurse feels proud and surprised about the two brothers. Why?

Value Based Questions: (100-120 words, 8 marks each)

1. 'Tough days don't last long but tough people do'. Explain with reference to the two boys.
2. How does the story 'Two Gentlemen of Verona' promise hope for society? How can you promise hope for society?
3. The attitude and the characters of the two brothers convey great message for us. What is the message and how do they convey it?
4. The story reflects upon the disastrous impact of war on humanity. Reflect upon the statement in the context of the story.
5. Wars also reflect upon the man's ability to overcome stiff ordeals. In the context of the story comment on this.
6. Family values have a lot to do with the formation of an individual's character. Comment upon the statement.

Fiction Unit 2: Mrs. Packletide's Tiger

Short Answer Questions: (30-40 words, 2 marks each)

1. 'It was Mrs. Packletide's pleasure and intention that she should shoot a tiger'. Why was Mrs. Packletide intent on shooting a tiger?
2. What preparations were made for the shooting?
3. 'Mrs. Packletide was reasonably annoyed at the discovery'. Which discovery is referred to and what has led her to be annoyed?
4. What were Mrs. Packletide's expectations regarding the hunt? How do you know?
5. How did Mrs. Packletide arrange the tiger hunting event to suit her own convenience?
6. Who was Miss Mebbin? What kind of individual was she?
7. 'The villagers show immense devotion for the event.' How can you justify the statement?
8. What motivated the villagers to take so much interest in the hunt?
9. Why does Mrs. Packletide give up hunting?
10. How does Miss Mebbin acknowledge her debt to the tiger?

Value Based Questions: (100-120 words, 8 marks each)

1. "Having a weakness for publicity sometimes leads to humorous consequences". Explain with reference to the chapter Mrs. Packletide's Tiger.
2. 'Miss Mebbin was a paid companion.' Do you think she was a true friend to Mrs. Packletide? Give reasons to support your answer highlighting the qualities of a true friendship.

Fiction Unit 3: The Letter

Short Answer Questions: (30-40 words, 2 marks each)

1. How does the Postmaster finally understand the feelings of Ali?
2. What kind of person was the Postmaster? Do you think he changed in the end?
3. The post office staff displays a total lack of empathy towards Ali. Justify the statement.
4. Why did Ali stop coming to the post office?
5. Why were Ali's eyes filled with the tears of helplessness when he visited the post office after many days?
6. What made Ali give up hunting?
7. Why is the Postmaster shocked when Lakshmi Das informs him about Ali's death?
8. Why was the Postmaster tortured by doubt and remorse?

Value Based Questions: (100-120 words, 8 marks each)

- Q.1. 'Ali symbolises love, patience and faith.' These are the essential elements which bind this world. Justify the statement in the context of the story.
- Q.2. The Letter also reflects upon the fact that persons in positions of authority must have a greater sense of empathy and responsibility. Express your views in the light of the story.
- Q.3 'Life ensures balance and justice for everyone.' Justify the statement in the context of the story.
- Q.4. Both Ali and the Postmaster learn important lessons in the course of the story, which make them change their attitudes to life. Justify.

Fiction Unit 4: A Shady Plot

Short Answer Questions: (30-40 words, 2 marks each)

1. What made John Hallock over-confident about his story writing skills?
2. The narrator does not particularly enjoy writing ghost stories. Why does he still do so?
3. Why do you think Hallock was unable to come up with any new ideas when asked for a story by Jenkins?
4. The narrator makes an ironical statement that story writing business is delightful. Why is the statement termed as ironical?
5. What does the narrator observe about the ghost's initial appearance?
6. What reason does the ghost give for her visit?
7. Why does John want his wife to get rid of Ouija Board?
8. What forced John to join the party? Did he like it?
9. How did the ladies react when all the Boards start calling the narrator a 'traitor'?
10. How does Lavinia react at the sight of the ghost Helen? Why is John surprised by it?
11. Why does John blame the ghost for all his problems?

Value Based Questions: (100-120 words, 8 marks each)

1. 'The writer of the story is sarcastic in representing the typical attributes of both female and male characters.' Do you agree with these representations? Give reasons for your answer.
2. 'John Hallock teaches some very important life skills to us while dealing with situations and persons.' Comment on the statement.
3. True understanding is essential to a happy family life. Comment on this statement with reference to the story.

Fiction Unit 5: Patol Babu, Film Star

Short Answer Questions: (30-40 words, 2 marks each)

1. How can we understand the level of Patol Babu's excitement on hearing about the offer to act in a movie?
2. How does Patol Babu prepare himself for the role?
3. How does his wife react when he shares the news with her?
4. Why had Patol Babu given up stage acting?
5. Why is Patol Babu so eager to know every detail about his role from Naresh Dutt?
6. How does Sosanko try to convince him about his role?
7. What changes Patol Babu's outlook about his role?
8. Why does Patol Babu choose to rehearse his part so thoroughly?
9. Patol Babu leaves the shooting venue without getting his payment. Why?

Value Based Questions: (100-120 words, 8 marks each)

1. The story tells us about the importance of taking every task seriously irrespective of its grandness or smallness. Comment upon the statement.

2. 'The memory of his guru made Patol Babu bow his head in obeisance.' In the light of the statement reflect upon the impact of teachers on their students' future decisions/actions.
3. 'In the modern materialistic world where everyone seems to be running after money, characters like Patol Babu reflect the true meaning of human life.' In the context of the story comment upon the statement.

Fiction Unit 6: Virtually True

Short Answer Questions (30-40 words, 2marks each)

1. What does the narrator come to know about Sebastian Shultz from the newspaper and why does his discovery make him uncomfortable?
2. The narrator terms his father 'nutty' about computers. Why does he make such a statement?
3. Where does the narrator meet Sebastian Shultz first?
4. What is the request made by Sebastian to the narrator?
5. Why does the narrator fail in rescuing Sebastian in first three psycho-drive games?
6. How does the narrator finally rescue Sebastian?
7. How did Sebastian become part of psycho-drive games?
8. How did the narrator get the psycho-drive games of Sebastian?

Value Based Questions: (100-120 words, 8 marks each)

1. "Technology can affect a person's psychological, physical, emotional and social life. As it becomes more intrusive, it becomes more dangerous." Express your views on the statement with reference to the story.
2. 'Life is full of surprises and miracles.' Share your views on this. Do you think that these add to the charm of life?
3. Today's science fiction is tomorrow's science. How would you feel about living in a world where a scenario such as the one described in the story is possible?

Poetry Unit 1: The Frog and the Nightingale

Extract based questions (1x4 marks each)

1. "Other creatures loathed his voice
But, alas, they had no other choice".
 - a) Whose voice is talked about in the above lines?
 - b) State the reason for the other creatures loathing his voice.
 - c) What do you understand by the word *loathed*?
 - d) Why did the other creatures have 'no choice'?
2. "Bravo!" "Too divine!" "Encore!"
 - a) Who are the speakers of the above words?
 - b) What is "Encore"?

- c) To whom are these words spoken?
- d) How does the listener react?

3. “.....This is a fairy tale-
And you are Mozart in disguise”

- a) Who is Mozart?
- b) Who is referred to in the text as Mozart?
- c) Write two adjectives about the character of the speaker highlighting the above lines.
- d) What prompted the speaker to say this?

4. “Well, poor bird – she should have known
That your song must be your own.”

- a) Name the poet.
- b) After which incident are these spoken?
- c) What are the speaker’s true feelings at this point?
- d) Explain the irony of the statement made by the speaker.

Short Answer Questions (30-40 words, 2 marks each)

- 1. What is the lesson in to be learnt from “The Frog and the Nightingale”?
- 2. What aspect of society does the poet want to highlight through the poem?
- 3. Comment on the ending of the poem.
- 4. Describe the reactions of the animals towards both the frog and the Nightingale.
- 5. Explain – “And the frog observed them glitter
With a joy both sweet and bitter”
- 6. How did the frog bring an end to the Nightingale?

**Poetry Unit 2: Not Marble Nor the Gilded Monuments
Extract Based Questions (1x4 marks each)**

1. When wasteful was shall statues overturn,
And broils root out the work of masonry.
Nor Mars his sword nor War’s quick fire shall burn
The living record of your memory.

- 1. Who is Mars? What does Mars’ sword represent?
- 2. Explain the word broils.
- 3. What is ‘the living record of your memory’?
- 4. Identify the figure of speech in the first line.

Short Answer Questions (30-40 words, 2 marks)

- 1. What is the theme of the poem?

2. Who does the poet address the poem to?
3. Who does the term princes refer to?
4. Why do the princes build monument?
5. Why does the poet describe time as sluttish?
6. What qualities of war does the poet highlight?
7. In what way is the poet stronger than powerful rulers?
8. How will the poet's friend find a place in the hearts of future generations?
9. How has the poet immortalized his friend and patron through his verse?
10. How will posterity remember the subject of the poem?

Value Based Question (100-120 words, 8 marks)

Materialistic things don't really last. What matters is the people who care for us and their memories of us. Explain with reference to the poem.

Poetry Unit 3: Ozymandias

Extract Based questions (1x4 marks each)

1. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

I met a traveller from an antique land
Who said: Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert.

- a) Name the poet of the above written extract.
- b) Who is 'I' in the first line?
- c) Explain 'antique land'.
- d) What did the traveller see in the desert?

2. And on the pedestal these words appear:

"My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:
Look upon my works, ye Mighty, and despair!"
Nothing beside remains.

- a) Where is the pedestal? What is on the pedestal?
- b) What else is lying in the sand, besides the trunkless legs?
- c) What is the meaning of the words on the pedestal?
- d) Who are the words addressed to?

3. Round the decay

Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away

- a) What is the meaning of the *decay*?
- b) What is implied by *boundless and bare*?
- c) Where is the wreck?
- d) What is it surrounded by?

Short Answer Questions (30-40 words, 2 marks each)

1. Whose is the speaking voice in the poem?
2. Where had the traveler returned from? How do you know?
3. Describe the irony of the inscription on the pedestal.
4. What clue does the statue's face give to the king's personality?
5. Give examples of the following literary devices from the poem: Synecdoche, alliteration
6. Explain the touch of melancholy about the poem.
7. How does the poet use imagery to create a picture of the scene described by the traveler?

Value based questions (100-120 words, 8 marks each)

1. How does the poem relate to modern society?
2. What message can the rich and powerful learn from the poem?
3. 'The poem Ozymandias illustrates the vanity of human greatness.' Discuss.
4. Describe the theme/moral of the poem in your own words.

Poetry 4: The Rime of the Ancient Mariner

Extract based questions (1x4 marks each)

1. The sun now rose upon the right
Out of the sea came he,
Still hid in mist, and on the left
Went down into the sea.

- a) Who is 'he' in the second line?
- b) Which direction is the ship moving in?
- c) What does the change of direction imply?
- d) What had caused the ship to change direction?

2. The ice was here, the ice was there
The ice was all around
It cracked and growled, and roared and howled,
Like noises in a swound!

- a) Which literary device has the poet used in the first two lines?
- b) What is the poet trying to focus on?
- c) Give an example of personification from the above lines.
- d) Explain the last line.

3. Nor dim nor red, like God's own head

The glorious sun uprist
Then all averred, I had killed the bird
That brought the fog and mist.
'T'was right, said they, such birds to slay
That bring the fog and mist

- a) What poetic device is used in the first line?
- b) What does the poet's description of the sun suggest?
- c) Why did the crew justify the killing of the Albatross?
- d) What attitude of the crew is revealed in these lines?

Short Answer Questions: 30-40 words, 2 marks each)

1. What is the wedding guest's reaction on being accosted by the old man?
2. Why is the wedding guest eager to escape the old man's clutches?
3. What forces him to listen to the mariner's tale?
4. What role does the Albatross play in the poem 'the Rime of the Ancient Mariner'?
5. How do the mariner's shipmates become party to his sin?
6. Give examples from the poem of the following literary devices:
Personification, metaphor.
7. Water, water, everywhere, nor any drop to drink...why does the speaker make this statement? What does it mean?

Value Based Question: (100-120 words, 8 marks)

The sin always catches up with the sinner. Discuss with reference to the rime of the ancient mariner.

Poetry Unit 5: Snake

Short Answer Questions (30-40 words, 2 marks each)

1. Where was the snake when the poet first saw it?
2. How can we infer the poet's respect for the snake?
3. State two allusions used by the poet.
4. What made the poet realise that the snake was poisonous?
5. What drives the poet to attack the snake?
6. What is his reaction immediately after this?
7. Why has the snake been associated with cattle?
8. Why is the voice in the poet's head called the voice of 'my education'?

Value Based Question (100-120 words, 8 marks)

1. The poet regrets the voices of the education and civilization that urge him to kill the snake. Is it right for individuals to allow social pressures to make them act against their instincts?
Discuss with reference to the poem.

Extract based questions (1x4 marks each)

He lifted his head from his drinking, as cattle do
And looked at me vaguely, as drinking cattle do
And flickered his two-forked tongue
From his lips, and mused a moment
And stooped and drank a little more

1. What literary device does the poet use in the first line?
2. How did the snake look at the poet?
3. What does this tell us about the snake's attitude to the man?
4. How did the snake drink the water?

2. But I must confess how I liked him
How glad I was he had come like a guest
In quiet, to drink at my water trough
And deport peaceful, pacified and thankless
Into the burning bowels of this earth?

1. How did the poet treat the snake?
2. What figure of speech does the poet use in the third line?
3. What does 'burning bowels of this earth' mean?
4. How had the snake intended to return to its own space?

Drama 1: THE DEAR DEPARTED

By - Stanley Houghton

Short Answer Questions (30-40 words, 2 marks each)

1. Why does Victoria come down shouting "Mother! Mother!"?
2. How do his daughters and their husbands react after seeing Abel alive?
3. Who is Victoria? What is her role in the play?
4. How do Amelia and Elizabeth compete to keep grandfather with them after they come to know of the terms of the new will?
5. Why didn't the Slaters call the doctor?
6. What three things is grandfather going to do next Monday?

1. Write a character sketch of Henry comparing with Ben Jordan.
2. The play The Dear Departed shows inhuman attitude of Amelia and Elizabeth towards their father. Explain.

3. Mr. Abel Merryweather decides to change the will and get married with Mrs. Shorrock at the end of the play. Do you think his act is justified?
4. Imagine that your friend's parents misbehave with your grandparents and never look after them properly. How you are going to change the behavior of your friend's parents?

Drama 2: JULIUS CAESAR

By- William Shakespeare

Short Answer Questions (30-40 words, 2 marks each)

1. What are the arguments put forward by Decius Brutus to convince Caesar to go to the Capitol?
2. What is the petition put before Caesar by the conspirators?
3. Whom does Antony call 'the choice and master spirits of this age'? Why?
4. What prediction does Antony make regarding the future events in Rome?
5. At the end of the excerpt, what is the fate of Brutus and Cassius?

Q.1. Compare the speeches of Brutus and Antony.

Q.2. Brutus commits a number of mistakes and is responsible for the ultimate downfall of the conspirators. Comment.

Q.3. Briefly describe how Caesar was assassinated.

Q.4. What reasons does Brutus give for murdering Caesar?

Q.5. Why does Antony 'shake hands' with Caesar's enemies?

Q.6. Write a paragraph about the Roman mob as depicted in the play 'Julius Caesar'.

Long Reading Text: The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank

Very Long Answer Questions to test comprehension and analytical skills (150 words, 10 marks)

1. How did Anne Frank and her family reach the secret annex?
2. Anne refers to 26th July as a 'tumultuous day.' Why?
3. In what ways do Anne's descriptions of life in the annex change around 1943?
4. How does the diary help Anne overcome her loneliness?
5. Why did Anne think she could confide more in her diary than in people?
6. Why was Mr. Keesing annoyed with Anne? What did he ask her to do? How did Anne justify her being a chatterbox in her essay?
7. Does Anne consider her family lucky or unfortunate to be living in the annex?
8. Why do you think Hanneli appears in Anne's dreams?
9. What are Anne's feelings for Peter? Why does she feel she can confide in him?

10. How is Anne affected by the various break-ins? How is her response connected to her general mood while in hiding?
11. Do you feel that Anne believes she is going to survive the war? Why or why not?
12. How does Anne mature and develop through the course of her diary?
13. How does Anne compare her situation in the Annex to what others are facing, particularly to the other two young people there?
14. why do people in the Annexe give so much importance to radio broadcasts and discussions about politics?

Grammar Practice (VSAQs) Articles, Determiners

1. Fill in the Blanks appropriately.

I have (a)urgent work at home so I can't go with you. I really want to come with you but every time I have (b)work or (c).....meeting. I hope you will try to understand (d).....problem and believe me. There are many things I want to share with you. There will be (e).....time when (f).....problems will be solved.

2. The following paragraph has not been edited. There is one error in each line. Write the incorrect word and the correction against the correct blank numbers. Remember to underline the word that you have supplied.

	Error	Correction
(a) One evening, during the informal
(b) game on a ground, Ranji's friend
(c) Bhim slipped while running after a ball
(d) and cut his hand on the sharp stone.
(e) Ranji took him to doctor near
(f) the clock tower where a wound
was washed and bandaged.		
(g) he come home limping.
(h) the cut helled after a week

3. In the sentences given below, one word has been omitted in each line. Write the missing word along with the word that comes before it and the word that comes after it against the correct blank numbers. Underline the word that forms your answer.

	Before	Word	After
1. I went to church to admire its architecture
2. Pen is lost. I have been looking for it for two hours
3. I hit him on head
4. the students of that class students well behaved
5. You can take of the two books.
6. He has enough money to buy the gift. So, he left it.
7. The side of the river is very clean.
8. The ring was stolen has been found.

4. Complete the following sentences with one word each.

Example: - She istall and beautiful girl.

- She is a tall and beautiful girl.

1. I saw two movies last night (a).....movie had (b)..... murder plot.
2. Have you got (c).....eggs?
3. How (d)pencils are there in your pencil box?
4. While the boys were playing on the roadside, two speedy cars approached. Both (e).....cars were black.
5. The poor boy was beaten to death for (f).....rupees.

5. Look at the words phrases given below. Rearrange them to form meaningful sentences.

Example:-age/an/this/mobile/of/phones/is

This is an age of mobile phones.

1. essential/have/mobile/become/now a days/phones
2. use/restricted/its/is not/only/communication/to
3. has/an instrument/it/become/of photography/information technology/and

Questions for Practice: Tenses/Verb Forms

1. Fill in the blanks in the following passage by using the correct tense form of the verbs given in brackets.

A diesel tanker (a) (catch) fire last evening when it (b).....(fill) up the underground tank of a petrol station situated on the G.T. Road. Soon the fire from the tanker (c)..... (reach) the station's administrative block. Suddenly the driver of the tanker (d)..... (get) into it and (e)..... (driver) it 25 yards ahead of the station. A big tragedy (f)..... (avert) due to his brave act.

2. Fill in the blanks in the following passage by using the correct tense form of the verbs given in brackets.

A forty-year old man (a).....(kill) and six others (b).....(injure) when the van in which they (c)(travel) overturned after colliding with a truck last evening. Soon after the incident a huge crowd (d).....(gather) on the spot and (e) (start) beating the driver as he (f).....(find) to be under the influence of alcohol. The police arrived on the scene and arrested the driver.

Questions for Practice: Modals

1. Complete the passage, with the appropriate answer.

One (a).....meditate every day. When I say meditate, one (b)..... not perform yoga exercise. You (c) Honour your spirit by witnessing the peace with a view of truthfulness and gratitude. With practice, the noise(d).....silence itself. The solutions you seek out are within. You (e)..... worry for it. You just.....concentrate within.

2. Look at the words and phrases below. Rearrange them to form meaningful sentences.

- (a) River/when I/could/ I swim/ was/young/across/the
- (b) Parents/their/children/obey/should
- (c) Dare/how/you/to him/talk/like/this

3. The following passage has not been edited. There is one error in each of the lines. Write the incorrect word and the correction against the correct blank number. Remember to underline the word/phrase that you have supplied.

	Incorrect	Correction
(a) We can have a half holiday tomorrow
Jyotish is going to be awarded for his		
(b) bravery tomorrow. He tells why he is
(c) being awarded. He once asked
(d) if you has worked sincerely and courageously
(e) you will have won everything.
(f) Let he have God’s grace always. His
(g) younger brother, Sunil, says, “Will I go to
school tomorrow?”Jyotish gets angry		
(h) and says, “How would you say such a thing to me?
Do not you like to see me receiving the award?”		

Questions for Practice: Non finites

1. Fill in the blanks in the following passage by writing the most appropriate non-infinite forms of the verbs given in bracket.

Mughal kings had the habit of (a)..... (rise) very early and (b).....(take) a bath with hot water. They never liked (c)..... (use) cold water as they thought that cold water would make them (d)..... (catch) cold. The Mughal Kings were fond of (e)..... (were) very clothes (f)..... (makes) of wool.

2. Fill in the blanks in the following passage by writing the most appropriate non-infinite forms of the verbs given in bracket.

(a).....(win) the first prize in the debate competition, Raghu decided (b)..... (put) in his maximum effort in all the (c).....(come) inter-school competitions. His teacher advised him not (d)..... (feel) overconfident. (e) (win) is not that matters always. (f).....(be) a good student, he knew the meaning of what his teacher advised him.

Questions for Practice: Subject-Verb Agreement

1.Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate answer.

- (a) Her friends as well as Rama.....studying for last one Hour.
- (b) Each of you.....responsible for the tragedy.

(c) Your cousin and friend.....come.

1. Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate answer.

- (a) None of the plans..... succeeded.
- (b) Some of these books.....really in bad position.
- (c) Some of the water..... Finished.

2. Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate answer.

- (a) Most of the money.....spent.
- (b)there any food left?
- (c) All of it.....been eaten.

3. Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate answer.

- (a) Bread and butter.....her favorite breakfast.
- (b) Bread and butter.....very costly nowadays.
- (c) Twenty kilos of flour.....insufficient for such a large family.

Practice Questions: Indirect Speech

1. Rearrange the following sentences to make meaningful sentences.

- (a) Friends/Archie/movie/the/asked his / what / of they / thought /
- (b) preferred /said/book/had/the/his/friend/he
- (c) his/was/same/Ram/answer//always/said/the

2. Read the dialogue given below and report it by filling in the blanks

Traffic police : You are going too fast. You have exceeded the speed limit.

Raena : I am late for my work. Please let me go this time.

Traffic Police : Don't worry. You have to report at the Police Station only tomorrow.

The Traffic Policeman stopped Reena and told her that she was going very fast and that she (a)Reena pleaded with the policemen and said that (b)the traffic Police asked her not to worry and said that (c)

Practice Questions: Prepositions

1. Fill in the blanks appropriately.

- (a) He felt sorry.....his mistake.
- (b) It was not expected.....you.
- (c) The Taj Mahal isAgra.

2. Fill in the blanks appropriately.

- (a) What was he annoyed?
- (b) Where do you come.....?
- (c) Where do the buses start.....?
- (d)

3. Look at the words and phrases given below. Rearrange them to form meaningful sentences.

- (a) Something/ to many/ necessary/ a stamp /merely/ people/ a letter/ is/ for/ sending
- (b) stamp-collecting/ regard/they/ as a/ waste/ time/ and money/ effort
- (c) people/ buying/ there are/ who/ but/ many/ love stamps