

Prose Section:

1. Digital India

I. Answer the following questions in brief:

1) What is the aim of Digital India?

Ans: The aim of Digital India is to convert India into a developed country with apt foreground and in-depth knowledge to become a digitally realised economy.

2) What are the three main aspects of the vision of Digital India?

Ans: The three main aspects of the vision of Digital India are:

- Empowering citizens digitally
- Creating and utilising digital infrastructure
- E-governance and digital delivery of services

3) Why is “IT” an important abbreviation for the programme?

Ans: “IT” becomes an important abbreviation for the Digital India programme as it stands for Information Technology, Indian Talent and India Tomorrow.

4) What is e-education?

Ans: E-education is a platform to provide internet in all schools, with free Wi-Fi in secondary and higher secondary schools. The vision is to develop and promote Massive Online Open Courses (MOOCs).

5) What role does cyber security play in Digital India?

Ans: The role of cyber security in Digital India is to curb cyber crime and ensure safety in the digital space.

6) What is MyGov?

Ans: MyGov is an initiative founded by the Government of India to encourage citizen engagement and make them stakeholders in the country’s development.

7) How will farmers benefit from Digital India Programme?

Ans: Through the Digital India Programme, the farmers will be provided with the technical know-how and real-time application of information regarding prices, mobile banking and ordering inputs online.

8) Describe e-Health care in brief.

Ans: E-Health Care would be a division where technology would be provided to maintain medical records, medical consultation online, record patient information, supply medicines through online portals, etc.

9) How does the government plan to improve the Justice system?

Ans: The government plans to digitalize courts, jails, prosecution, police etc. to build a strong space and provide strength to the justice system.

II. Write short notes on the following

1. The role of social media in bringing about a change

Social media can play a very important role in making the Digital India Programme successful. This is because the social media platform is not restricted to a particular section of the society. It has now become very easy to connect with the entire nation or even world in few seconds through smart phones. The young India is seen highly active and well connected through the social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, LinkedIn and so on. The strength of social media is such that it is faster in spreading the news even more than the commercial news houses. With a 'scroll' or a 'click' a whole new world opens up in front of you. Although, each one would agree that it is a double-edged sword.

2. The pillars of the Digital India Movement

The vision of Digital India is an amalgamation of different thoughts, ideas and plans. They cover a range of departments and ministries functioning across the country. Following are the nine main pillars of the Digital India Movement:

- a) Making mobile connectivity a universal feature
- b) Broadband Highways
- c) e-Governance
- d) Public Internet Access Programme
- e) e-Kranti
- f) Manufacturing electronics
- g) Information for all
- h) Information technology for jobs
- i) Early Harvest programmes

3. e-Kranti and its salient features

e-Kranti is another name for the revamped version of the e-governance platform launched on a national level by the Government of India called the National e-Governance Plan 2.0. The original plan included health care, agriculture, education, land, courts, passports, municipalities, police, taxes and so on. Now the government is pushing it towards e-Kranti by transforming the governance into e-governance, transformation instead of translation and integrated services instead of individual services. Women empowerment, child development, urban governance, financial awareness, social assistance would also be included in it.

4. Creating and utilising digital infrastructure

Creating and utilising the digital infrastructure is one of the major aspects of the Digital India Programme. Proper digital infrastructure and high speed internet connectivity can connect a person to the remotest part of the country. This aspect of Digital India Programme aims at

creating unique digital identity, making high speed internet available, making provision for public cloud with a private space, encouraging digitalisation in financial sector, building a cyber space that is safe and encrypted and making a common service centre accessible to all.

III. Answer the following questions by choosing from the given options:

- 1) e-Kranti
- 2) India Today
- 3) Massive Online Open Course
- 4) Electronic
- 5) Uber
- 6) Geospatial Information System
- 7) DeitY
- 8) None of the above

IV. State whether the following statements are True or False

- 1) False
- 2) False
- 3) True
- 4) False
- 5) False
- 6) False



2. 'Lemon-Yellow and Fig' by Manohar Malgonkar

I. Answer the following questions in brief:

1) In what way had Mr. Ratnam been cheated by the previous salesman?

Ans: The previous salesman had cheated Mr. Ratnam by showing that he sold fewer saris than he actually did. Thus he pocketed the difference money by telling such lies.

2) What were the qualities that the new salesman ought to have had, according to Mr. Ratnam?

Ans: Honesty and a pleasant manner with the customers were the qualities that Mr. Ratnam was looking for in the new salesman.

3) Why did Mr. Ratnam visit the shop?

Ans: Mr. Ratnam visited the shop just to make sure that the new salesman was not going to let him down like the predecessor did. He wanted to ensure that he was not being cheated by the new salesman, Mr. Agarwal.

4) Why did Mr. Ratnam select Mr. Agarwal as a new salesman?

Ans: Mr. Ratnam selected Mr. Agarwal as a new salesman because Mr. Agarwal had an honest face and Mr. Ratnam was looking for honesty.

5) Why is the new salesman satisfied with his job?

Ans: The new salesman was satisfied because he had proved himself to be an honest and a hard working person by making more sales, in his second week, than the previous salesman had made during any week.

6) What made Mr. Agarwal suspicious about the second woman customer?

Ans: Mr. Agarwal became suspicious about the second woman customer because he was reminded of an incident that happened with a fellow shop-keeper where two women had cheated the shop-keeper.

7) Why did Mr. Agarwal send a hundred rupee note to his brother?

Ans: Mr. Agarwal wished to escape being cheated by the second customer whom he thought to be a fraud. So he sent a hundred rupee note from his cash box to his brother.

8) How did Mr. Agarwal lose his job?

Ans: Mr. Agarwal had got his job due to his honesty. But, once when Mr. Ratnam came for a surprise check to his shop and checked the cash in the cash-box, he found Rs 100 less. Ironically Mr. Agarwal could not justify the missing cash. Thus, he lost his job.

II. Write short notes on the following

1. **The irony in the story**

2. **Agarwal, the salesman**

The story *Lemon-Yellow and Fig* revolves around a salesman Mr. Agarwal. Mr. Agarwal was appointed by Mr. Ratnam at his saree shop in Bombay. The previous salesman

had cheated Mr. Ratnam by showing that he sold fewer saris than he actually did. Thus he pocketed the difference amount by telling such lies. Honesty and a pleasant manner with the customers were the qualities that Mr. Ratnam was looking for in the new salesman.

Mr. Ratnam selected Mr. Agarwal as a new salesman because Mr. Agarwal had an honest face and Mr. Ratnam was looking for honesty. Mr. Agarwal was satisfied because he had proved himself to be an honest and a hard working person by making more sales, in his second week, than the previous salesman had made during any week.

One day Mr. Agarwal became suspicious about a woman customer because he was reminded of an incident that happened with a fellow shop-keeper where two women had cheated the shop-keeper. Mr. Agarwal wished to escape being cheated by the second customer whom he thought to be a fraud. So he sent a hundred rupee note from his cash box to his brother.

Mr. Agarwal had got his job due to his honesty. But, when Mr. Ratnam came for a surprise check to his shop and checked the cash in the cash-box, he found Rs 100 less. Ironically Mr. Agarwal could not justify the missing cash. Thus he lost his job.

3. **The importance of the hundred rupee note in the story**

4. **The appropriateness of the title of the story**

The title of the story *Lemon-Yellow and Fig* is appropriate as in the story of Mr. Agarwal Lemon-Yellow and Fig coloured saris and a hundred rupee note become the reason for losing his job.

This story depicts a real life situation in the life of a salesman in a sari shop in Bombay. Mr. Ratnam has employed the salesman for his honest face and pleasant manner. One day a charming, young lady, well dressed and well perfumed, came into the shop. She bought a lemon-coloured silk sari and paid the price of Rs 40 for it with a Rs. 100 note. Soon after she left, another prosperous lady entered wearing the same perfume. She asked for a fig-coloured sari. The salesman got suspicious as he recollected a story of how two women used a trick with Rs 100 note to cheat a salesman. Agarwal took certain precautions to ensure that he did not get cheated in similar fashion. But, when his employer Mr. Ratnam conducted a surprise check of funds in the cash box that day, he found Rs 100 short. The twist in the tale is that although Agarwal was actually an honest salesman, he found it difficult to justify the missing cash to his boss. As a consequence, Agarwal was accused of being dishonest and lost his job.

III. **Answer the following questions choosing from the options given:**

1. Bombay
2. had an honest face

3. the first sale of the day
4. for a few weeks
5. keep Rs. 100 in small notes
6. mixture of red and green threads
7. wore large diamond clips
8. take it to Kirpa Ram's shop

IV. State whether the following statements are True or False:

1. False
2. False
3. False
4. True
5. False
6. True



3. Father's Help by R. K. Narayan

I. Answer the following questions in brief:

1) What, according to father, is the cause of Swami's headache?

Ans: According to Swami's father, Swami's headache on Monday was because he loafed about on Sundays.

2) 'Swaminathan left his seat joyfully and hopped on the platform.' For what did Swami go to the platform?

Ans: Swami had put in all efforts to irritate his teacher and had tried everything to force Samuel to beat him. So when the teacher finally called him to take the punishment, he left his seat joyfully and hopped on the platform.

3) What are the facts that Swami found out to justify his plot against Samuel?

Ans: Swami found out that Samuel was reputed to have skinned the knuckles of a boy in first standard and made him smear the blood on his face. Whether it was true or not, it was enough to justify his plot against Samuel.

4) Why did Swami change his tactics while giving excuse to his father?

Ans: Swami knew that his father was very stubborn and would not accept false excuses so easily and so he changed his tactics.

5) Why did Swami's father tear the letter?

Ans: Swami's father was upset because Swami did not handover the complaint letter against Samuel to the headmaster and so he tore the letter in fury.

6) What did Swami say about Samuel to his father?

Ans: Swami told his father that Samuel was very violent, especially with boys. He made them stand on their knees and caned them till they bleed.

7) Why did Swami realize that he was perjuring himself?

Ans: Swami realized that he was perjuring himself because he had deliberately portrayed Samuel as an extremely violent man in front of his father. He had done all this to escape from school.

8) How did Swami provoke his teacher?

Ans: Swami wanted Samuel to beat him till he bleeds. He wished this because he wanted to justify the complaint letter against Samuel written by his father. So, Swami provoked Samuel by shouting in the class and by asking unnecessary questions.

II. Write short notes on the following

1. Swami's father

2. Father's Help: A reflection of the inner psyche of a school going child

Father's Help by R. K. Narayanan unravels the inner psyche of school going child. Just like any other school-going child, one Monday morning, Swami fabricates false stories. He complains of a headache.

Swami's father is like a typical Indian father. He is stubborn and strict and has the final say in his family. Swami manages to fool his mother by giving an excuse of a headache and thereby take an off from school. But just then his father appears in the scene and it becomes difficult for Swami to convince him. To substantiate his argument, he says that his teacher Samuel, would beat children until he saw blood, and made them smear it on their forehead like a vermilion marking. Hearing all this, his adamant father forces Swami to school with a letter addressed to the head master.

On his way to school, Swami feels that he was the worst perjurer on earth. Apart from the hearsays there was no knowledge of Samuel's cruelties within his mind. To justify what has been written in the letter he wants Samuel to do something. So he decides to deliver the letter at the end of the day. Swami provokes the teacher for the entire day by shouting and screaming unnecessarily. Samuel gets angry and canes him.

Jubilant Swami rushes to the headmaster's room to hand over the complaint letter. He finds that the headmaster is on leave. The peon asks him to handover the letter to the assistant headmaster; finding that he is Samuel himself, Swami flees from the place.

Knowing that Swami has failed to deliver the letter, he tears the letter off and tells Swami that he deserves the thrashing and punishment from his teachers.

3. The children's impression of Samuel vs Samuel the teacher in reality

Samuel, the teacher of history and arithmetic in Swami's school, was not such a bad man. He was much more genial than the rest; often he cracked a joke or two centering on Swami's inactions and Swami took it as a mark of Samuel's personal regard for him.

But it was a reality that he treated some children badly. His cane skinned people's hands. Years and years ago he was reputed to have skinned the knuckles of a boy in First Standard and made him smear the blood on his face. No one had actually seen it.

Even when Swami makes all possible efforts to provoke Samuel, he shows immense patience. Thus it can be said that Samuel is not as violent a teacher as Swami had portrayed him.

III. Answer the following questions choosing from the options given:

1. An Astrologer's Day and Other Stories
2. a school-going child

3. Samuel, his teacher
4. was lazy
5. Inspection of home lessons
6. History and Mathematics
7. He started shouting out questions
8. He was trying to provoke Samuel and he felt it had worked

IV. State whether the following statements are True or False:

1. False
2. False
3. True
4. False
5. False
6. True



Poetry Section:

1. 'Father Returning Home' by Dilip Chitre

I. Answer the following questions in brief:

1) Give examples from the poem to prove that the old man does not come from an affluent background.

Ans: The old man is travelling by a train. He has put on shirt, pants and chappals which are soggy and stained with mud. He is seen eating stale chapati. All these things prove that he does not come from an affluent background.

2) What can you conclude from the fact that the old man's bag is filled with books?

Ans: The fact that the old man's bag is filled with books suggests that once the old man was full of knowledge and has gradually turned time-worn or senile.

3) What does the poet mean when he says, 'Like a word dropped from a sentence'?

Ans: The poet means that the old man is no longer relevant to the world. He has been discarded by the world as an obsolete word from a sentence.

4) How has the poet conveyed the physical decline of the old man?

Ans: The poet says that the old man trembles at the sink and a few droplets of water cling to the greying hair on his wrists. Thus, he conveys the physical decline of the old man.

5) The old man's family does not appreciate him. How has this been suggested?

Ans: The old man's lonely life is reflected throughout the poem. The poet writes that the old man's sullen children have stopped sharing jokes and secrets with him. This suggests that his family does not appreciate him.

6) What is the central idea of this poem?

Ans: The poem is about the urban rootlessness and alienation, particularly of the family. Even as systems of communication become stronger, enabling people to stay connected; the older generation sadly feels the need to recall the past to feel alive and loved.

7) How does the poet describe his father's train journey in this poem?

Ans: The poet talks about his father's lonely train journey. He says that his father travels on the late evening train standing among the silent commuters. His blank and lifeless eyes see the suburbs pass by.

II. Write short notes on the following

1. **The old man, despite facing hardship, has a proud spirit**
2. **The theme of the poem**
3. **The title of the poem**

Father Returning Home is a short and appealing poem about an old man living all by himself in a large, busy city. He feels alienated and lonely; his own children don't relate to him and he has ceased to matter to them. He himself is estranged from the man-made world.

He denounces the urban rootlessness and alienation, particularly of the family. Even as the systems of communication becomes stronger, enabling people to stay connected, the older generation sadly feels the need to recall the past to feel alive and loved.

The old man is travelling by a train. He has put on shirt, pants and chappals which are soggy and stained with mud. He is seen eating stale chapati. All these things prove that he does not come from an affluent background. The fact that the old man's bag is filled with books suggests that once the old man was full of knowledge and has gradually turned time-worn or senile.

He is discarded by the word as an obsolete word from a sentence. The poet says that the old man trembles at the sink and a few droplets of water cling to the greying hair on his wrists. Thus, he conveys the physical decline of the old man.

The old man's lonely life is reflected throughout the poem. The poet writes that the old man's sullen children have stopped sharing jokes and secrets with him. This suggests that his family does not appreciate him.

III. Answer the following questions, choosing from the options given

1. late evening
2. the shirt and pants are soggy and muddy
3. Like a word dropped from a long sentence
4. It is an imagery pointing to the fact that like the bag full of books, the old man, who was once full of knowledge, is turning time-worn or senile.
5. drinks tea and eats a chapatti
6. ancestors and grandchildren

IV. State whether the following statements are True or False

1. False
2. False
3. True
4. False
5. True
6. False

2. 'Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening' by Robert Frost

I. Answer the following questions in brief:

1) Describe the climate in the first stanza.

Ans: The first stanza of the poem suggests that it was a snowy evening when a traveller stopped by the woods to admire its beauty.

2) Why is the traveller induced to stop at the woods?

Ans: Probably, the beauty of the woods covered with snow induces the traveller to stop and admire it.

3) Why does the traveller's horse feel it queer to stop at the woods?

Ans: The traveller's horse feels it queer to stop at the woods as there is no farmhouse nearby. The horse feels that it must be a mistake to stop between the woods and the frozen lake in the darkest evening of the year.

4) Why has the poet repeated the last lines?

Ans: The poet repeats the line 'And miles to go before I sleep', to show the traveller pulling himself out of the captivating beauty of the snowy, dark and deep woods and remind himself of his responsibilities he has to fulfil before he dies.

5) Why does the traveller decide to move on?

Ans: The traveller has several promises to keep and when he is reminded of his responsibilities he has to fulfil before his last sleep, he decides to move on.

6) What is the message of the poem?

Ans: A message that this poem conveys is that we have many things around us to enjoy and experience in our small life, but our responsibilities and commitment remind us to move on and fulfil the promises before we sleep.

II. Write short notes on the following

1. **The theme of the poem**

2. **The central idea of the poem**

3. **Resolution between an attraction towards the woods and the pull of responsibility outside the woods**

Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening is one of the most famous poems by Robert Frost. The poem is a dramatic monologue. It is about a traveller who once pauses quite late on a snowy evening to admire the beauty of the woods. Probably, the beauty of the woods covered with snow induces the traveller to stop and admire it.

He seems to be known to the owner of the woods who stays in a village nearby.

The traveller's horse feels it queer to stop at the woods as there is no farmhouse nearby. The horse feels that it must be a mistake to stop between the woods and the frozen lake in the darkest evening of the year. The horse suggests this by shaking the harness bells.

The only sound that can be heard is of the wind blowing and the snow falling. The traveller seems to be enjoying the beauty of Nature, but he decides to leave. The poet repeats the line 'And miles to go before I sleep', to show the traveller pulling himself out of the captivating beauty of the snowy, dark and deep woods and remind himself of his responsibilities he has to fulfil before he dies.

III. Answer the following questions, choosing from the options given

1. realistic depictions of rural life
2. dramatic monologue
3. Between the woods and the frozen lake
4. In the village
5. Winter Solstice
6. shakes the harness bells

IV. State whether the following statements are True or False

1. False
2. False
3. True
4. False
5. True
6. True



3. Leisure by W H Davies

I. Answer the following questions in brief:

1) What does the poet mean by the word 'care'?

Ans: The word 'Care' used satirically by the poet and it means the rat race of human beings to achieve materialistic goals.

2) Why does the poet use Beauty with a capital B? What does he mean by Beauty?

Ans: Beauty is written with a capital 'B' in the poem because the poet has personified the beauty of Nature by comparing it to a beautiful girl with dancing feet and lovely smile.

3) Who is the 'we' in the poem?

Ans: 'We' in the poem refers to all of us; we the human beings.

4) What is wrong with a life full of care?

Ans: The problem with a full of care is that all of us are so preoccupied with the petty things in life that we do not have time to enjoy the magnificence of life.

5) What message does the poet convey to everyone?

Ans: The poet points towards our busy lives, the rat race to achieve the materialistic goals. He tries to make us realize the fact that the happiness of life is does lie in materialistic gains. He wants us to pause and enjoy the magnificence of the life that lies in the beauty of nature around us.

6) Why does the poet want us to have some free time?

Ans: The poet wants us to have some free time so that we can pause and experience the magnificence of life that lies in the beauty of nature.

7) What according to the poet is a poor life?

Ans: According to the poet a poor life is the one that gets wasted in the futile rat race to achieve the materialistic goals.

II. Write short notes on the following

1. Personification used in this poem

The poet has used imagery, simile, metaphors, personification, repetition and much more to express his concern in the poem. The poet is seen waking us up to the fact that each one of us has joined in a race to achieve the materialistic goals. In this race for petty things we have failed to enjoy the magnificence of life, the nature's beauty, the god's gift to all of us.

In the third stanza of the poem, the poet is seen personifying beauty of the Nature by comparing it to a beautiful girl. He deliberately writes the word beauty with a capital 'B'. He says that we have no time to have a glance at the Beauty, see her dance or experience her smile that reflects in her eyes.

2. **The theme of the poem**

3. **Leisure: A reminder to take time to appreciate the beauty of nature**

The poem *Leisure* by W H Davies expresses the poet's concern for the mankind. The poet is seen waking us up to the fact that each one of us has joined in a race to achieve the materialistic goals. In this race for petty things we have failed to enjoy the magnificence of life, the nature's beauty, the god's gift to all of us.

In the first stanza, the poet says that we the human beings do not have time to stand and appreciate the Nature's beauty around us.

In the second stanza, the poet laments that man today cannot find any moment to see numerous beautiful scenes even in the broad daylight. He says that the flowers shine in the day as stars in night but man passes them without any interest.

In the third stanza of the poem, the poet is seen personifying beauty of the Nature by comparing it to a beautiful girl. He deliberately writes the word beauty with a capital 'B'. He says that we have no time to have a glance at the Beauty, see her dance or experience her smile that reflects in her eyes.

The poet says that no matter how rich you are, you remain poor if you fail to experience the Nature's richness.

III. **Answer the following questions, choosing from the options given**

1. under the trees
2. cows and sheep
3. Beauty's smile is truly genuine; it begins in her eyes and spreads to her lips
4. graze
5. neglect to rest
6. looking at squirrels

IV. **State whether the following statements are True or False**

1. True
2. False
3. False
4. True
5. True
6. True