

**Easy Study Material on**

***A Novel Beginning***

**(A Text Book Prescribed for B.A. Compulsory English, Second Semester)**

by

RTM Nagpur University, Nagpur.

Under the guidance of

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Note- This material is only for the use of the students and not for sale.

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*Disclaimer- It is only the compilation of the study material provided by various teachers of English from different colleges affiliated to RTM Nagpur University, Nagpur. Hence the style of writing may differ from teacher to teacher.*

**Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University**  
**Syllabus Prescribed for**  
**Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Part I Examination (Second Semester)**  
**Compulsory English**  
**(To be implemented from the session 2020-21 and onwards)**

**Theory Marks: 80**

**Internal Assessment**

**Marks: 20**

**Prescribed Textbook:** *A Novel Beginning* edited by Urmila Dabir, Priya Wanjari, Renu Dalela (Orient BlackSwan)

**Objectives-**

1. To render attention to humour as a tool to conveying morals
2. To inculcate values which display interesting, inspiring and revolutionary changes brought by great personalities.
3. To expose students to the prevailing consequences of materialism and such themes.
4. To intend develop confidence regarding grasping and understanding of English language and its usage.

**Outcomes-**

1. The learners will be able to analyse, all emotions depicted in lessons on themes of humour.
2. The students should be able to look up to positivity to rise in their academics.
3. Students should be able to identify consequences of materialism prevalent in contemporary society.
4. Students should be able to accelerate their learning with correct usage of language.

**Unit I – Prose**

1. The Romance of a Busy Broker - O. Henry
2. Miss Brill - Katherine Mansfield
3. The Homecoming- Rabindranath Tagore
4. Values in Life - Rudyard Kipling

**Unit II – Personalities**

1. Ratan Tata
2. Sundar Pichai
3. Louis Braille

**Unit III - Poetry**

1. An Irish Airman Foresees His Death - W. B. Yeats
2. Money Madness – D.H. Lawrence
3. Stay Calm – Grenville Kleiser
4. The Lotus - Toru Dutt

**Unit IV - Grammar and Composition**

1. Comprehension
2. Paragraph Writing
3. Subject-Verb Agreement

**Internal Assessment:**

There shall be two Assignments based on prescribed syllabus carrying 10 marks each. (10 X 2 =20)

B. A. Part I  
**Semester II**  
Subject- Compulsory English  
**Total Marks-80**

- Question no. 1 (A)- 3 Short Answer Questions on Unit I (Prose) with internal choice- (5 marks on each question.)- **15 Marks**  
(B)- 5 Objective type questions on Unit I (Prose) (Choose the correct option form)- **5 Marks**
- Question no. 2 (A)- 3 Short Answer Questions on Unit II (Prose) with internal choice- (5 marks on each question.)- **15 Marks**  
(B)- 5 Objective type questions on Unit II (Prose) (Choose the correct option form)- **5 Marks**
- Question no. 3 (A)- 3 Short Answer Questions on Unit III (Poetry) with internal choice- (5 marks on each question.)- **15 Marks**  
(B)- 5 Objective type questions on Unit III (Poetry) (Choose the correct option form)- **5 Marks**
- Question no. 4 (A) – Comprehension- **10 Marks**  
(B) – Paragraph Writing- **5 Marks**  
(C) – Subject-Verb Agreement (Choose the correct option form)- 5 items- **5 Marks**

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**Lesson 1**  
**Romance of a Busy Broker**

**O. Henry**

**Summary**

O' Henry, in his short story, "Romance of a Busy Broker", narrates the incident in the life of Harvey Maxwell, busy broker. He is New York based share broker. Harvey Maxwell is such a busy man that the author refers to him as a machine. One morning he enters the office in the usual scheduled time with his young lady stenographer who has been working with him for the last one year. His stenographer is a young beautiful lady called Miss Leslie. Unlike her usual routine, this morning, she is blushing and looking happy. She keeps lingering around Maxwell's desk, trying to get his attention. But Maxwell, surrounded by his mail, telegrams, and endless phone calls, is so busy that he hardly pays any attention to her.

The previous day, Maxwell had asked his clerk Pitcher to hire another stenographer. But when his clerk brought in a candidate, Maxwell denies the candidate by saying that he does not have any intention of hiring another stenographer, as he is perfectly satisfied with the services of Miss Leslie. The clerk quietly declares that Maxwell is getting more and more absent-minded and forgetful day by day.

As the day progresses, the speed of business grew faster, and Maxwell is working like a machine. He is lost in the world of finance – stocks, bonds, loans, shares and securities. In the middle of his busy day, suddenly a sweet smell of lilac comes in through the window. He recognizes the smell as belonging to Ms. Leslie, and suddenly he forgets the world of finance. He can only think about her. All of a sudden, he decides to propose marriage to her. He dashes into her office and asks her to marry him. Miss Leslie acts strangely. At first, she is totally surprised. Then tears flow from her eyes and she smiles at him. She then put her arms around his neck and tells him that they have already got married the previous evening at 8 o'clock in the Little Church around the Corner. The story thus ends with a surprise.

**Attempt the following questions in short**

**(1) Who is Mr. Pitcher? Describe his conversation with the young lady.**

O. Henry, in his short story 'The Romance of a Busy Broker', narrates the incident in the life of Harvey Maxwell, busy broker. Pitcher was the personal clerk in the office of Maxwell. Miss Leslie worked as his stenographer. Her appearance was quite unstenographic as she dressed in a very simple manner. But one morning she had different appearance when she came to office. She was softly glowing. She looked bright and happy with a touch of some sweet memory. Pitcher was surprised when she stayed in the outer office instead of starting her routine office work. Then she asked Pitcher if Mr. Maxwell had told him anything about appointing another stenographer. Pitcher replied in positive and told her that he had asked the agency to send a few girls in that regard. Since nobody had yet come, Miss Leslie told that she would begin her work as usual.

**(2) Who is Harvey Maxwell? Write about his business activities.**

Ans.: O. Henry, in his short story 'The Romance of a Busy Broker', narrates the incident in the life of Harvey Maxwell, busy broker. He is a New York based share broker. He works like a machine. He is so busy that he comes every morning and threw himself into the great heap of letters and telegrams waiting for him. In his office, the teleprinter sends out lengths of tape, the desk telephone rang continuously. Men begin to crowd into the office. Messenger boys ran in and out with messages and telegrams. The clerks in the office had to work like sailors during a storm. Maxwell's business is growing fast. Maxwell worked like some high-powered, delicate, strong machine going at full speed. He was exact and never hesitated while at work. He is 'prompt as clock'. He always takes right decision while dealing with the Stocks, bonds, loans, shares and securities. He is more like a machine than a human being, which is why he is called as 'the machine sitting at the desk'.

**(3) How was the young lady dressed? How did she appear?**

Ans.: O. Henry, in his short story 'The Romance of a Busy Broker', narrates the incident in the life of Harvey Maxwell, busy broker. Miss Leslie worked as his stenographer. Her appearance was quite unstenographic as she dressed in a very simple manner. She wore no chains, bracelets or locket. That morning, her dress was gray and plain, but fitted her very well. There was the golden feather of a parrot in her black hat. She looked happy; her eyes dreamily bright and was glowing with softness.

**(4) Comment on the unusual ending of the story.**

Ans.: O. Henry is a wonderful short story writer. Most of his short stories end on a note of surprise. There is always a twist in his stories. In this story he has described the romance of a busy broker, Harvey Maxwell. He works like a machine. He is so busy that he comes every morning and threw himself into the great heap of letters and telegrams waiting for him. He is like some high-powered, delicate, strong machine going at full speed. He has to deal with the Stocks, bonds, loans, shares and securities. He is more like a machine than a human being, which is why he is called as 'the machine sitting at the desk'.

Miss Leslie was his stenographer, whom he had already proposed her, a day before, had married with her that evening. Maxwell is so busy person that he completely forgets about their marriage on next day and he again proposes his stenographer turned wife Miss Leslie

The ending of the story is quite unusual as no one forgets about his marriage. His wife is aware of his busy schedule, so instead of getting angry, his wife cheerfully smiles at him and make him remember about their marriage that took place last evening in the little church around the corner.

**Multiple Choice Questions**

1. Who is the busy broker mentioned in the short story?
  - (a) Mr. Pitcher
  - (b) Mr. Harvey Maxwell
  - (c) The New Stenographer
  - (d) Ms. Leslie

2. Setting of "The Romance of Busy Broker"

- (a) New York City
- (b) Chicago
- (c) Philadelphia
- (d) Washington DC

3. Who had an expressionless countenance?

- (a) Ms. Leslie
- (b) Mr. Harvey Maxwell
- (c) The New Stenographer
- (d) Mr. Pitcher

4. At the beginning of the story, for which of these reasons is Pitcher showing more expression than usual?

- (a) Maxwell reduced his pay
- (b) Maxwell is late to work
- (c) Maxwell and his former secretary enter together
- (d) He is interested in dating the secretary

5. Which of these flowers is mentioned in the story?

- (a) Lily
- (b) Lilac
- (c) Tulip
- (d) Daisy

6. What was there on Miss Leslie's small black- hat?

- (a) The golden wing of a bird.
- (b) The Silver wing of a bird.
- (c) The gold-green wing of a bird.
- (d) The Silver White wing of a bird.

7. 'I'll do the work as usual then, until someone comes to fill the place' whose words are these?

- (a) The new stenographer's
- (b) Ms. Leslie's
- (c) Mr. Pitcher's
- (d) The book keeper's

8. Who worked as a confidential clerk in Maxwell's office?

- (a) Mr. Pitcher
- (b) The book keeper
- (c) The New Stenographer
- (d) Ms. Leslie

9. Which incident did Ms Leslie remind about at the end of the story?
- (a) That she and Mr. Maxwell got married the previous evening at 8' O clock in the church
  - (b) That Maxwell had asked for appointing a new stenographer the previous day
  - (c) That she and Mr. Pitcher got married the previous evening at 7'O clock
  - (d) That she and Mr. Maxwell got married the previous evening at 7' O clock in the church
10. How was Miss Leslie different from most other secretaries?
- (a) Her clothes do not fit her shape.
  - (b) She was unusually beautiful.
  - (c) She always dressed very simply.
  - (d) She always wore attractive dresses
11. What was the appearance of the Lady who came from the Stenographer's Agency?
- (a) Simple and Attractive
  - (b) Self-possessed and with full of accessories
  - (c) Kind and considerate
  - (d) Arrogant and dull
12. Why didn't Miss Leslie go straight to her desk when she came to work?
- (a) She did not want to do any work that day.
  - (b) She wanted to know what Mr. Maxwell wanted her to do
  - (c) She wanted to ask Pitcher about employing a new secretary.
  - (d) Because she always hated her job.
13. What did Mr. Maxwell ask Mr. Pitcher the day before?
- (a) Mr. Maxwell asked Mr. Pitcher to speak with his wife.
  - (b) Mr. Maxwell asked Mr. Pitcher to find a new secretary.
  - (c) Mr. Maxwell asked Mr. Pitcher to order food for lunch.
  - (d) Mr. Maxwell asked Mr. Pitcher to find him a new office.
14. What is the purpose of the machine in Maxwell's office?
- (a) It makes copies of his letters.
  - (b) It records all of his phone calls.
  - (c) It organizes all his documents.
  - (d) It brings him business news as soon as it happened.
15. The desk telephone on Maxwell's table
- (a) Was least used by him
  - (b) Was out of order
  - (c) Had a chronic attack of buzzing
  - (d) was used by his clerk

16. Where did Maxwell put his fountain pen?

- (a) Into his Pocket
- (b) Over his right ear
- (c) In his hand
- (d) In the pen stand on his table

17. What does Maxwell ask his secretary?

- (a) He asks her out to dinner.
- (b) He asks her to call Pitcher.
- (c) He asks her to write a letter.
- (d) He asks her to be his wife.

18. Why did Mr. Maxwell tell Pitcher to send the woman from the secretary's agency away?

- (a) There was no need for another secretary.
- (b) He was too busy dealing with the stock market problems.
- (c) He thought that Pitcher had made a mistake.
- (d) Maxwell did not like the appearance of that woman.

19. Why did Mr. Maxwell walk over to Miss Leslie's desk?

- (a) He wanted to take her out to lunch.
- (b) His hands were full of papers for her.
- (c) He had something important to tell her.
- (d) He wanted discuss some office work.

20. What did Maxwell forget happened the night before?

- (a) He already married his secretary.
- (b) His secretary left to find a new job.
- (c) Pitcher found him a new secretary.
- (d) Pitcher and his secretary got married.

### Answer Key

Question No.	Correct Option						
01	b	06	c	11	b	16	b
02	a	07	b	12	c	17	d
03	d	08	a	13	b	18	c
04	c	09	a	14	d	19	c
05	b	10	c	15	c	20	a

## **Lesson 2**

### **Miss Brill**

**Katharine Mansfield**

#### **Summary**

Miss Brill is a middle aged, unmarried English tutor in France leading a lonely life. She works as a teacher for children and as a reader for an old man who is in vegetable state. She loves visiting Jardins Publiques meaning public garden on every Sunday. It's being little chili on one such Sunday she decides to wear her fur necklet. It is an old piece kept in a box. She takes the fur stole out and brushes it clean. She addresses the necklet as little rogue as if it were a living thing. Miss Brill's affectionate talk with the necklet highlights her loneliness. Visiting the garden, she finds increased number of people this Sunday afternoon. She also feels that the band plays louder and happier music this Sunday. She loves observing people of different age groups and from different walks of life interacting in the garden. Overhearing the visitors and forming opinions is her favourite pastime.

She finds a fine old man and old woman sitting quietly near her. She also notices that people in the stands with her look kind of the same odd, quiet and old. Continuing to observe people she finds a gentleman in grey suit and a woman dressed in ermine toque. Miss Brill finds a small talk taking place between gentleman in grey and the woman identified by ermine toque. Miss Brill thinks of prospective grooming of relationship between the gentleman and the ermine toque. However, the couple doesn't satisfy her, as they separate before anything meaningful happens between them. Soon she notices that an old man nearly gets knocked down by a group of young girls. Watching and observing people in the garden, Miss Brill starts imagining that all the activities happening before her are like acts taking place on the stage. She imagines all the humans around her including herself playing a predestined role. All are actors and actresses including her are on the stage of the world. However, her new found fancy gets knocked down soon. She finds a boy and girl replacing the old man and old woman. The boy and girl look wealthy and in love. They find the presence of Miss Brill annoying and invasion in their privacy. They use some insulting words for Miss Brill's unwanted presence in the park and make fun of her old fur necklet. Dejected Miss Brill forgets to purchase her favourite slice of honey cake on way back to home. Miss Brill reaches her home and puts the fur coat in its box without looking at it. When she closes the lid of the box she hears something crying.

#### **Answer each of the following questions in short**

##### **1.How does the fur transform Miss Brill on this Sunday?**

Miss Brill decides to wear her little fur stole this Sunday. She was glad that she decided to wear it, because the weather appeared fine but it was little chili too outside. She affectionately calls the fur a little rogue and talks to it as a living thing. In her loneliness, things like the fur stole fill the gap and become part of her life. The fur not only demonstrates her loneliness and isolation but also her capacity of imagination. The story of Miss Brill starts with her positivity to wear the fur to visit the public garden which was her favorite pastime every Sunday. The story ends with a young couple criticizing Miss Brill as an unwanted old woman wearing an

ugly piece of fur. Dejected, Miss Brill hurriedly returns back to keep the fur back in the box from which she has taken it out so enthusiastically. This is how the fur transforms Miss Brill to a happy middle-aged woman to a dejected one on this Sunday.

## **2.Examine the theme of decay in the story?**

The central theme of “Miss Brill” is the pain of loneliness. It is highlighted by her rejection by the people as an old and outdated thing like the decaying fur. From the beginning of the narrative, it becomes apparent that Miss Brill is starving for warmth and companionship. Her inadvertent attempts to experience life through the experiences of total strangers are evident throughout the narrative. However, people are so busy in themselves that they don’t have time for aged people like Miss Brill. They are like decaying piece of fur which is seldom used and keeps gathering dust. This theme of decay further sealed at the end when a young couple mocks her old age and ugly fur stole. The annoyed couple feels that her unwanted presence in the garden is intruding their privacy and such people should stay at home. Old people are outdated and unwanted in such public places. Hence the theme of decay dominates the story as it approached it’s sad, pitiable and pathetic end.

## **3. Describe the tone of the story. Support your answer with examples from the text.**

The overall tone of Miss Brill is loneliness. Miss Brill is a middle-aged, unmarried English tutor in France. This sense of loneliness of Miss Brill, which is painful and pitiful, is seen at number of places in the story. The story starts with Miss Brill dusting her fur stole and addressing it as a ‘little rogue’. Talking affectionately with an object like fur stole shows Miss Brills loneliness and craving for somebody to talk with. Miss Brill loves to visit a public garden every Sunday to get over her loneliness. She fantasizes herself to be an important character of the drama played in the world of the garden. However, her fantasy comes to a crashing end. A young couple makes fun of her old face calling it a ‘silly old mug’. The couple feels that old people like Miss Brill are unwanted in the public places as they intrude privacy of youngsters like them. Thus, in spite of Miss Brills attempt to become a part of the larger spectacle she remains lonely in her life.

## **4.Why and how does the conversation between the young boy and girl affect Miss Brill?**

Miss Brill is a middle-aged, unmarried and lonely English tutor in France. Miss Brill loves to visit a public garden every Sunday to get over her loneliness. She fantasizes herself to be an important character of the drama played in the world of the garden. However her sense of belonging crashes very soon. A young boy and girl make fun of her old face calling it a ‘silly old mug’. The young couple feels her presence annoying as it is an unwanted encroachment to their privacy. They make fun of her fur necklet comparing it with a fried fish. They also think that old people like her should stay at home rather than visiting public gardens. The arrogant conversation of the young couple shatters her fanciful thoughts of being an actress of drama played around her. The behavior and talks of the young couple pushes Miss Brill back to painful loneliness.

### **5.Examine the role of the orchestra in relation to Miss Brill’s emotional state.**

The orchestra symbolizes Miss Brill’s emotional state in the narrative. As the orchestra plays, Miss Brill feels more and more connected to the people around her. On this Sunday she enters her usual public garden in a very happy mood. She feels that more number of people is out this afternoon in comparison to the previous Sunday. In her happy state of mind she feels that the band played louder and gayer. Even the conductor of the music is shown as wearing new coat and flapping his arms like a rooster about to crow. She feels as if the orchestra was playing for the family gatherings. On one occasion when a gentleman in gray suit deserts his girlfriend, Miss Brill feels that orchestra is playing the tune ‘The Brute! The Brute!’ *Miss Brill’s* emotions are reflected and echoed by the *orchestra playing different tunes on different occasions*. Thus throughout the narrative the orchestra symbolizes her emotional state of mind.

### **6.How does the author use the weather, particularly the temperature, to influence the mood of the story?**

The story ‘Miss Brill’ starts with brilliantly fine weather. The blue sky with golden light splashed everywhere in the public garden sets the mood of the story. Though the air was motionless it was cold enough to help Miss Brill to decide on wearing her fur. Miss Brill talks to the fur stole as if it were a living thing. The fur fills the gap of loneliness in the life of Miss Brill. The beginning of the season of autumn and its silent beauty is in backdrop of the story. The temperature during this season is neither very cold nor very hot to be unpleasant. However the happy mood of Miss Brill does not remain the same till the end. The very fur becomes the reason of her dejected mood as it is mocked as an ugly piece by a young couple. Thus temperature plays an important role to influence the mood of the story.

### **7. Explain the significance of the final line in the story?**

The final line in the story ‘Miss Brill’ signifies Miss Brill’s pitiful lonely life. Miss Brill, a middle-aged teacher of English in Paris is as rare, as outdated, as lonely, and as strange to the common folk as is the furry piece she wears. She loves the fur stole so much that she takes it with her to Sunday walks in the park. When the young couple mocks Miss Brill and her fur coat in the park she realizes for the first time in her life the type of existence that she has been leading. She leaves the park, and enters her lonely living space, putting the fur inside its box in almost the same manner in which she "hides" herself from a cruel world. The crying of something in the last line is the crying of Miss Brill’s dejected heart. The old fur is symbolically used in the story suggesting Miss Brill’s ageing state. Similarly the crying of the fur suggests her emotional state.

### **Multiple Choice Questions**

1. What does the fur’s ‘dim little eyes’ and nose suggest?
  - a. that it has been stowed away in the box for a long time.
  - b. that it is old and beyond repair
  - c. that the value of the fur has grown over time and it would sell for a princely sum
  - d. that it still has its best years ahead

2. Why is the personification of the fur significant to the story, particularly its ending?
  - a. Because it becomes an object the reader and Miss Brill empathies with..
  - b. Because it illustrates Miss Brill's loneliness.
  - c. Because it ensures the reader is invested in the fur's fate.
  - d. Because, in many ways, it comes to represent Miss Brill and the difficulties of her old age.
  
3. What does Miss Brill call her coat?
  - a. little rogue
  - b. dear old thing
  - c. the brute
  - d. none of the above
  
4. Which of the following themes is not explored in the story?
  - a. loneliness
  - b. ambition
  - c. age
  - d. appearance versus reality
  
5. What is Miss Brill's profession?
  - a. playwright
  - b. actor
  - c. conductor
  - d. teacher
  
6. What does Miss Brill find exciting about sitting in the park?
  - a. the idea that she and all the people around her are all performers on a play
  - b. observing the pleasant and unpleasant ways in which people interact in public
  - c. listening to other people's conversations
  - d. watching people and their children laugh and play to the tune of the orchestra
  
7. Who are the 'hero and heroine'?
  - a. a boy and girl
  - b. an elderly couple
  - c. Miss Brill and her fur coat
  - d. none of the above
  
8. Where does the story take place?
  - a. England
  - b. America
  - c. France
  - d. Norway

9. The weather in the story is \_\_\_\_?
- Slightly chilly
  - Piercingly cold
  - Temperate and sunny
  - Very warm
10. Who is sitting with Miss Brill at the beginning?
- The hero and heroine
  - A nun
  - An old man and woman
  - Two peasant women
11. What did the Englishman and woman talk about?
- Spectacles
  - Shoes
  - Coats
  - Pocket watches
12. What does Miss Brill like to do in the garden?
- Watch and listen to people
  - Draw people
  - Talk to people
  - Doze off
13. Miss Brill describes the people she sees as all the following except \_\_\_\_.
- Scary
  - Old
  - Odd
  - Silent
14. What do the two girls in red do?
- Jump and Dance
  - Join up with soldiers
  - Pluck flowers from the garden
  - Talk meanly about Miss Brill
15. What items worn by the peasant women are called funny?
- Hats
  - Spectacles
  - Toques
  - Shoes

16. The man the woman in the ermine toque talks to is described as \_\_\_\_.

- a. intelligent
- b. cruel
- c. dignified
- d. funny

17. After the man leaves the woman in the toque, Miss Brill thinks she hears the band playing what word?

- a. Lonely
- b. Sigh
- c. Cruel
- d. Brute

18. What according to Miss Brill the scene of garden looks like?

- a. play
- b. painting
- c. memory
- d. dream

19. What does Miss Brill do with the old gentleman four days a week?

- a. Take his dictations
- b. Clean his house
- c. Read the newspaper
- d. Teach him French

20. The hero says all the following about Miss Brill except \_\_\_\_.

- a. She should stay at home
- b. Her toque is shabby
- c. No one wants her
- d. She is odd

21. The girl says Miss Brill's fur looks like a \_\_\_\_.

- a. Fish
- b. Rag
- c. Rat
- d. Soggy piece of bread

**Answer Key**

Question No.	Correct Option						
01	a	06	a	11	a	16	c
02	d	07	a	12	a	17	d
03	a	08	c	13	a	18	a
04	b	09	a	14	b	19	c
05	d	10	c	15	a	20	b
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### Lesson 3

#### The Homecoming

Rabindranath Tagore

##### Summary

The Homecoming is a tragic story of a naughty and mischievous teenager boy Phatik. Phatik Chakravorty was a 14 years old Bengali boy whose father died very early. According to his mother he was a lazy, wild and disobedient boy. His younger brother Makhan Chakravorti was quiet, good and fond of reading. Phatik thought about doing new mischief every day. One day he and his friends pushed into the river a wooden log meant to be shaped like a boat. Makhan, objecting to this and sitting firmly on the log, was thrown to water along with the log.

At home, when he was questioned about this, he beat not only his brother, but his mother also. It was then that his uncle, Bishamber, from the far Calcutta City arrived. Phatik's mother explains the whole situation to her brother. He suggests taking the boy along with him to Calcutta to be educated there. The boy was glad to leave. The widowed mother readily agreed. It was a great relief for her to get rid of him. She was distressed on the boy's extreme eagerness to go away. She was half-relieved and half-sad.

Phatik's aunt and her three sons did not like this new addition to their family. The boy had his own problems. He was fast growing up. He was neither a child nor a man, crossing the line in between. He missed the meadow, mountain and river of his native village. Therefore, it was no wonder he became a failure at school. He answered no questions, was beaten badly daily at school and ridiculed by all including his cousins. He grew impatient about returning to home and always kept asking, when the holidays would come.

One day Phatik lost his lesson book and was scolded and abused much by his aunt. It served as the last hurt to break him. On a rainy afternoon after school, feeling fever and headache, he sought shelter somewhere and did not return home. He did not want to trouble his aunt any more. His Uncle sought the help of the Police. They found him and brought him home, shivering and fallen into a restless state. He talked about things in his native village, asked his mother not to beat him anymore and called out fathom-marks which steamer-sailors in his native village river did. He moved restlessly, his hands beating up and down. His condition seemed critical to the doctor, and his mother in the village was sent for. When his mother arrived moaning and crying, and calling his names, he was nearing his eternal home which is Heaven. His last words were: Mother, the holidays have come.

During his stay with his Uncle he longed for his village and family and he realizes the real value of home and family love.

### **Attempt the following questions in short**

**1. Describe in your own words Phatik's experiences at school in Calcutta?**

Phatik who was the most notorious, mischievous and Playful boy in his village became the most backward and the dumbest boy in the school. He remained silent when the teacher asked him a question. He patiently suffered all the blows and beating that came down on him silently. When other boys played, he stood wistfully by the window gazing at the roofs of the distant houses. One day he lost his lesson book. It was impossible to prepare lesson without it. Day by day he was beaten unmercifully by the teacher for not answering in the class. His condition became so miserable that even his cousins were ashamed of him. He was insulted by his Teachers, classmates his aunt and his cousins. These all troubles were faced by Phatik when he was at school in Calcutta.

**2. Describe Phatik's relationship with his mother. Support your answer with examples from the story?**

Phatik's mother was prejudiced against her son. She thought that there was no love left between the two brothers. She told her brother that Phatik was a perpetual nuisance. He was a lazy, disobedient and wild boy. She tried to discipline him but Phatik dislikes his mother's efforts to discipline him. He quickly grabs the opportunity to go to Calcutta with his uncle. His mother also wanted to get rid of the boy because she feared that he would harm his younger brother some day or run him in danger some day. That is why it was an immense relief to the mother to get rid of Phatik and agreed to send him to Calcutta with her brother. She never tries to hear or understand her teenager growing boy. She is unjust to him some times. On the other hand Phatik longs for his mother's love and attention. He behaves rudely and disrespectfully with his mother

**3. Compare Phatik's life in the village with his life in the city?**

Phatik was a happy and free boy in his village. He used to play boyish pranks and have fun common to his age. When he was sent to Calcutta with his uncle he expected to have an exciting life there. But he was an unwelcome guest at his uncle's house. His aunt was rude with him and found fault with him. He was despised, insulted and made fun of. He was beaten mercilessly at school. He took all the insult and beating silently. Instead of love he received contraption, insult and beating. A playful boy of 14 who is a Leader of a group of boys at his village becomes a shy, silent and self-conscious person at school in Calcutta. In his village he was living a free life and was close to nature. He had a lot of friends to play with. But in Calcutta he depended on his uncle and aunt for everything. There were buildings around him and he became far from nature. He had no friends now to play with now. He does not like to play anymore. The longing for love and affection worsened his situation. This made the boy unhappy and adversely affected his progress in school. The unloved and uncared boy lastly fell sick and died longing for a home and family love.

4. **How did the general atmosphere of neglect affect Phatik, and how did he get into bad books of his teacher?**

In this story Phatik is the neglected boy longing for love and affection. His mother sends him to Calcutta with her brother hoping that the boy would get good education and be happy there. She always supported Makhan and beat and neglected Phatik. Phatik expected that he would have an exciting life at Calcutta but his aunt showed no love to him. He was an unwelcome guest in the uncle's house. His cousins also insulted him. At school also being the most backward student of the school. In the whole story Phatik was not understood by anybody in village or in Calcutta. His aunt was not interested to take care of his needs and studies. She always scolded him. He was afraid of telling her about the book he had lost. He could not study without the book. He was mercilessly beaten by his teacher for not completing his lessons and not answering his questions. In this way he got into the bad books of his teacher.

5. **Comment on the significance of the line. "Mother, the holidays have come".**

Phatik was not happy at his uncle's house in Calcutta. He told his uncle that he wanted to go home. His uncle assured him that he will send him when Holidays would come. In the end his mother arrived to see her son dying. In his delirium he kept on asking his uncle that "uncle, have the holidays come yet? May I go home?" The story ends up with the answering refrain "Mother, the holidays have come". He realized in the end the value of what he has left behind and wanted to go back. He realized the value of home and family love because of neglect from his uncle's family and separation from his mother. He turned from a wild boy to a mature boy who understood the value of home. The last line of the story – "Mother, the holidays have come" tells that Phatik entered the long sleep of eternity. One thing can be safely concluded that Phatik's homecoming may not be the village home that he longed for, but the eternal home. . It may be assumed that the lonely, isolated and feverish Phatik set-off for the holidays of eternity after getting a glimpse of his mother.

6. **With the story as your reference, discuss the situation of a young, carefree boy of fourteen caught in the expectations of his elders and the personal circumstances of his life.**

In the story of Phatik we have the theme of family, home, conflict, control, responsibility, love, isolation and expectations. According to the writer in this world there is no nuisance than a boy at the age of fourteen, who is neither ornamental nor useful. Though he craves for love affection and attention nobody cares for him. He is in his unattractive, not so pleasant growth age. His unavoidable lapses are hard to tolerate. He becomes self-conscious, shy and shameful. He is in need of love and affection but none dares to show him that love openly. If not handled properly he becomes more defiant and aggressive. For him his own home is a paradise and to live at another unwelcome place is a torture for him. Phatik's mother is has no control over him. He is not necessarily doing things that are dangerous or overly wrong. He is acting as many fourteen year old boys would do. Phatik is not allowed to be a young adolescence boy by his mother. Pathik's mother expects him to get educated and behave according to her always. His uncle expects that

he would be helping his sister by taking Phatik to Calcutta and educating him. Phatik completely fails to adjust with the new family, home, school and the new city. No one here cares to understand the boy and his needs. The carefree boy of fourteen therefore is caught in the expectations of his elders and the personal circumstances of his life.

**7. How and why did Phatik's attitude to his brother change after he learnt that he would be leaving for Calcutta?**

Phatik and Makhan, kept fighting always. Makhan disobeyed his elder brother and did not hesitate to harm him too. When Phatik and his friends decide to perform a new mischief by rolling the wooden log down the river Makhan went against the plan. He sits on the log and did not let them roll it. Phatik asks him to get off the place but Makhan pays no attention. With Phatik's order his friends rolled the log down with Makhan sitting on it. Makhan falls down in the mud. In fury he hurts Phatik and goes back home crying. Phatik is scolded by his mother on Makhan's complaint and she even agrees to send him to Calcutta with her brother. When Phatik's uncle asked him if he would like to go to Calcutta with him, he quickly agreed to it. He was excited to go with his uncle. He expected to have an exciting life at Calcutta. He was so excited that he was no longer a bullying elder brother to his younger brother who was the cause of the scene. His attitude towards his younger brother changed at once. Out of brotherly love he bequeathed to Makhan, his fishing rod, his big kite and his marbles. He showed generosity to his brother at the time of his departure.

**Multiple Choice Questions**

1. How old was Phatik?
  - (a) 14-year-old
  - (b) 10-year-old
  - (c) 20-year-old
  - (d) 12-year-old
  
2. What Kind of boy was Pathik?
  - (a) Naughty
  - (b) Mischievous
  - (c) Fun Loving
  - (d) All the above
  
3. What was new mischief he thought of?
  - (a) to roll away the log of wood into the river
  - (b) Beating his brother
  - (c) Hiding himself from his mother
  - (d) not going to school

4. Why was Phatik annoyed with Makhan?
- (a) Makhan complained mother about Phatik's mischief
  - (b) Makhan refused to obey Phatik and told lies to his mother
  - (c) Makhan did not share his things
  - (d) None of the above
5. Why did Phatik beat Makhan even in the presence of his mother?
- (a) Makhan lied his mother
  - (b) Makhan complained mother about Phatik's mischief
  - (c) Makhan did not like Phatik
  - (d) mother praised Makhan
6. To save his dignity and carry out his threat Phatik ...
- (a) planned to roll the log and Makhan over together
  - (b) thrash his younger brother for disobeying him
  - (c) complained to his mother about Makhan
  - (d) did nothing
7. Phatik's mother wanted to send him away to her brother's house because
- (a) She was prejudiced about the boy
  - (b) His mother was worried about Phatik behaviour
  - (c) She wanted to get rid of him
  - (d) all the above
8. When Phatik reached his uncles home in Calcutta his aunt was.
- (a) very happy to see him
  - (b) not happy to see him
  - (c) welcomed him whole heartedly
  - (d) liked him.
9. Phatik could not do well at school because
- (a) he did not respect his teachers
  - (b) he was mischievous
  - (c) he played all the time
  - (d) he was the most backward boy in the school.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ helped Bishambar to search for Phatik.
- (a) Phatik's Aunt
  - (b) Phatik's mother
  - (c) Police
  - (d) Phatik's cousins.

11. Why did Pahtik want to perform a ‘new manoeuvre’.
- (a) to humiliate Makhan and amuse his friends
  - (b) to put Makhan in a position of peril
  - (c) to prove Makhan was an attention –seeking liar
  - (d) to get Makhan off the log so he and his friends could resume their game.
12. How did Phatik behave with the middle-aged man” who asked him directions?
- (a) respectfully
  - (b)with indifference
  - (c) honourably
  - (d) childishly
13. Bishamber offered to take Phatik to Calcutta because
- (a) he wanted to help his sister
  - (b) his wife dearly wanted to have another boy living with them at
  - (c) he felt the city would have a positive effect on the boy
  - (d) none of the above
14. When Phatik agrees to go to Calcutta with his uncle his Mother is
- (a) confined, because she knows Phatik is a handful but she is worried about how she will cope
  - (b) Delighted, because she feels Phatik is too much for her to handle and he might eventually place his younger brother in danger
  - (c) Unhappy while Phatik causes so much trouble, she loves him most
  - (d) Afraid, because she heard stories about Bishamber’s wife.
15. Which of the following happened to Phatik when he moved to Calcutta?
- (a) a demotion in social status
  - (b) being filled with fear over upsetting his aunt
  - (c) confusion when it came to classes
  - (d) all the above
16. Which word best captures the way in which Phatik’s Aunt treated him?
- (a) tenderness
  - (b) neglect
  - (c) fury
  - (d) patience
17. Which of the following, in your opinion, lists the central themes of the story?
- (a) family, identity
  - (b) rural vs. urban life
  - (c) Family, home
  - (d) home, sibling rivalries, education

18. What were Phatik's last words?
- (a) "Mother, the holidays have come."
  - (b) "I am sorry for the trouble I have given."
  - (c) "By the mark!-three Fathoms."
  - (d) "God, forgive me."

19. Why did Bishamber send for his sister?
- (a) Because Pathik was very seriously ill
  - (b) he wanted to send him back
  - (c) he wanted her to take her away
  - (d) he was upset with his wife

20. What was mother's reaction when she came to see ailing Phatik?
- (a) she was angry
  - (b) she was sad and wept
  - (c) she was restless
  - (d) she was calm

**Answer Key**

Question No.	Answer						
1	<b>A</b>	6	<b>A</b>	11	<b>A</b>	16	<b>C</b>
2	<b>D</b>	7	<b>D</b>	12	<b>B</b>	17	<b>C</b>
3	<b>A</b>	8	<b>B</b>	13	<b>A</b>	18	<b>A</b>
4	<b>B</b>	9	<b>D</b>	14	<b>B</b>	19	<b>A</b>
5	<b>A</b>	10	<b>C</b>	15	<b>D</b>	20	<b>B</b>

## Lesson 4

### Values in Life

#### Rudyard Kipling

##### Summary

Kipling starts his speech with the comment about the custom of inviting scholars or distinguished person to speak or guide the young students at educational institutes. Here he humorously says that on such occasion like this the youth in audience generally pretends polite interest and the speaker behaves as if he knows everything.

Rudyard Kipling feels that youth's inability to respond to a situation or a social custom force them to remain silent. This silence and shyness often are taken as arrogance. Similarly, his first-hand experiences of the world and his rugged response to it shows him as a brutal person. The sophistication of response or conduct comes only after experience which can be seen in the matured people. Thus, the world terms the youth as sinful only because his inexperience. Kipling says that the students find themselves in a very organized conspiracy once they go out into the world. They are made to believe that the most important work is the acquisition of wealth. The world all over is dominated by this thought. Here, Kipling also says that some of the young people will always succumb to this idea which is prominent in the world.

He says that one need to watch out for someone who is not controlled by this idea. It will be crucial and beneficial for young people. Money dominates everybody except the man who does not want it. For many people he may not be a smart person in his ideas, because the whole world is running for money. People even laugh at him but Kipling says that he who is not after material success only is a strong man. Such person will always be a satisfied man. He will not be a worried by defeat or loss of money. People will fear such a person who is not controlled by money. Kipling then goes on to give his young audience an instruction saying that don't let money become everything in your life. Earn money but do not make it your master.

Kipling says that one should acquire wealth by their left hand meaning as per their need and also ensure to live a balanced life in order to become a satisfied man. They should use their right hand to do the good deeds in life. He says even for a selfless purpose, people should never indulge in amassing money with their both hands forgetting their prime goal of honest work. Money madness makes us stoop or lose our soul also. Because if you run after money you may succeed and also have enormous wealth at your hands but that does not guarantee a good life.

Many people say that youth is a season of ambition, hope, and uplift. But in reality, youth can also become a season of great depression and doubt. This is because you might think yourself to be special and won't communicate with others. This situation may take the soul of the young person into darkness. The youth may start thinking that it is leading a worthless life of desolation and abandonment. It is nothing short of life in hell.

Kipling goes on to that our desires, expectations and ambition can sometimes lead us in the wrong direction. We develop an attitude of thinking that we are always right. This is nothing but an ego in us that speaks. It makes animal of a human being. To take ourselves away from such darkness we should develop a selfless feeling. We should learn to share sorrows of others and find joy in happiness of others.

But in spite of this the darkness does not go away, remember that the biggest liar in the world is our sensation. If we are able to control it, no despair or horror can affect us. We all have been created by the Heaven. It controls us from straying. If for any reason, one does not believe in the mercy of Heaven, then one should at least understand that we are not of much importance in this vast universe created by powers above or below us. Everything in the world should be taken seriously except ourselves.

In his speech Kipling had mentioned the word, 'Smart'. While he did that he had heard disrespectful laughter of some students. He wants to deliver message to the youth as they can mold the future of their country. He advises them not to be 'smart.' Had he not been interested in the good of that University, he would not have disapproved this kind of behavior. These students are advised that if they come across showing undue smartness, they should tenderly but firmly try to knowledge of higher and more interesting things.

### **Answer the following questions in short**

#### **1. How are the sins of youth inherent in its virtues?**

Ans: The writer Rudyard Kipling feels that the sins of youth are very largely due to its virtues. For example his shyness very often turns into arrogance. Unable to respond to a situation or a social custom the youth prefers to remain arrogantly silent which is considered to be arrogance. Similarly, his first hand experiences of the world and his rugged response to it showcases him as a brutal person. The sophistication of response or conduct comes only after experience which can be seen in the matured people. Thus the world once again terms the youth as sinful only because his inexperience in his conduct.

#### **2. What are the different positions the youth and the elderly take when a distinguished person is invited to address a gathering?**

Ans: Kipling starts his speech with the comment about the custom of inviting scholars or distinguished person to speak or guide the young students at educational institutes. Here he humorously says that on such occasion like this the youth in audience generally pretends polite interest and the speaker behaves as if he knows everything. So this speech is not on the general topics of virtue or vices of youth like why young people behave in such manner and why they don't do what they are expected to do. But then he says this is about how to deal with the battle of life that is their future life when they complete their studies and enter into the real world.

**3. What kind of a person does Kipling encourage his listeners to seek out? What does he say about such a person? What would he like his listeners to do upon meeting such a person?**

Ans: Kipling says that the youth find themselves in a very organized conspiracy once they go out into the real world. He further says that the world is governed by an idea that wealth is for wealth's sake. To put it in other words the most important work is the acquisition of wealth so the world all over can be at his feet. Here, Kipling also says that some of the young people will always succumb to this idea which is prominent in the world that one should always earn wealth. He also says that you need to observe a person who does not follow this idea and it will be beneficial for young people to study them. Money dominates everybody except the man who does not want it. For many, such a person may be a laughing stock, but he is a strong and satisfied person. He will not worry for monetary loss. We all need to earn money, so earn money but do not make it your master.

**4. What does Kipling actually mean when he asks young people to use their 'left hand' to acquire wealth? What is the purpose of the 'right hand'?**

Ans: Kipling advises to the students that one should not be wealthy for wealth's sake. In reality an individual should be wary of becoming greedy and to be satisfied with their lot when it comes in terms of money or wealth. A life is wasted by the constant pursuit of wealth and a person is running after it. Here, Kipling says that one should acquire wealth by their left hand means as per their need and also ensure to live a balanced life in order to become a satisfied man and use their right hand to do the good deeds in life. It is easy for a man to forget to have balance in their life and by doing so they will only suffer. He says even for a selfless purpose, people should never indulge in amassing money with their both hands forgetting their prime goal of honest work. Money madness makes us stoop or lose our soul also.

**5. What do you think Kipling means by the phrase 'a smart man', and why does he say it is a calamity to be such a person?**

Ans: Kipling says to his young audiences that do not fall into the trap of 'smartness'. For him, smartness means the world thinks that smart people are good people or smart people are wealthy one. But Kipling says I do not have much message to deliver to you but I will tell you just one thing that is one value that you need to remember in your own life is that the world has a trap and he says that those who run after wealth, those who run after success are called as smart people and don't fall into this world's trap of being a smart person. Smartness says be busy, earn whatever you can, follow the rush of the world but Kipling says don't fall into the trap because sometimes your world can become a living hell so don't be smart and even if you find somebody who is doing it then firmly lead him into higher knowledge and more interesting things so that he may not fall into that trap just lift him up from that trap.

**6. What, according to Kipling, is the main cause of the darkness in young people's lives? What remedies does Kipling offer?**

Ans: According to Kipling, Many people say that youth is a season of ambition, hope, and upliftment but in reality youth can also become a season of great depression and doubt. At the same time youth can be a season of great depression, despondencies, doubts, and wavering. Worse of it all is that there are incapable of connecting with the world due of lack of power of communication. This lack of communication sometimes leads them to alienation. The consequences of such alienation further leads to a horror of desolation, abandonment and realize worthlessness. Such a state for youth is like hell. This is a main cause of darkness in young people's lives. The remedy to get out of such darkness is to rise above our selfish self. By investing ourselves in joys and troubles of others, one can come out of the darkness.

**7. Kipling concludes by saying 'I have no message to deliver.....' Is this true? Justify the statement with your own observations.**

Ans: Yes, it is true that Kipling concludes his speech by saying that he does not have a message to deliver to the youth. He tells them just one thing that is one value that they need to remember in their life is that running after money may appear a smart work but it is like a mirage a trap. Smartness says be busy, earn whatever you can, follow the rush of the world. On the contrary, Kipling says don't fall into the trap because sometimes your own world can become a living hell if you recklessly run after money. So don't be smart of this kind. If you find somebody who is doing it then lead him, guide him tenderly by the both hands lovingly but firmly into higher knowledge and more interesting things so that he may not fall into that trap just lift him up from that trap.

**Multiple Choice Questions**

1. Which of the following is the speaker using humor to maintain the audience's interest?
  - a. The only penalty youth must pay for its enviable privileges is that of listening to people known, alas, to be older and alleged to be wiser.
  - b. And that is one of the most terrible calamities that can overtake a sane, civilized white man in our Empire today.
  - c. At first you will be inclined to laugh at this man, and to think that he is not 'smart' in his ideas.
  - d. I regret that I noticed certain signs of irreverent laughter when I alluded to the word 'smartness'.
  
2. What does Kipling compare youth to?
  - a. a season of hope, ambition and uplift
  - b. season of great depression, despondencies, doubts and wavering
  - c. period when the soul sometimes experiences a horror of desolation, abandonment and realized worthlessness
  - d. all of the above

3. 'Which pretences sit uneasily on both of them?' What purpose does this line fulfill?
- It offers advice to the listeners.
  - It injects humor into the speech.
  - It openly mocks then-contemporary conventions.
  - all of the above
4. Why does Kipling advise his listeners to pay attention to those who do not care to amass wealth?
- Because they are not 'smart' people and one should pay attention to them to avoid making their mistakes.
  - Because they are people with principles who cannot be bribed or bought.
  - Because the manner in which they work to earn a living is worthy of attention.
  - Because too often people of high stature ignore those who are in need of help.
5. Why, according to Kipling, does youth hold the potential to be a period of depression?
- Because we feel responsible for ourselves.
  - Because we wish to challenge ourselves.
  - Because we are compelled to do well.
  - Because we are all full of unique doubts.
6. The author advises that the only thing we must not take seriously is .....
- our colleagues
  - those who earn wealth
  - ourselves
  - those who have gone astray
7. What advice does Kipling offer for when we see our friends trying to be 'smart'?
- We should show them a better and more humane way
  - We should learn from them
  - We should assist them in their work
  - We should encourage them
8. Which penalty youth must pay for its enviable privileges?
- ignoring people
  - listening people
  - rejecting people
  - accepting people
9. What does come out for youth's natural virginity of spirit?
- humility
  - politeness
  - brutality
  - shyness

10. The idea that world is governed by wealth for wealth's sake is .....
- a. an organized conspiracy
  - b. true idea
  - c. practical idea
  - d. natural idea
11. The writer advises to use our right hand for .....
- a. earning money
  - b. spending money
  - c. proper work in life
  - d. taking advantages of life
12. The writer advises to use our left hand for .....
- a. to misuse money
  - b. to acquire wealth
  - c. to spend money
  - d. to donate money
13. If we use both hands to acquire wealth we are in danger of .....
- a. losing our money
  - b. earning a lot of money
  - c. being generous
  - d. losing our soul
14. According to Kipling, Youth is a season of .....
- a. hope, ambition, uplift
  - b. education and sports
  - c. entertainment and learning
  - d. adventure and courage
15. The chief cause of a man descending into darkness is .....
- a. egotism
  - b. self-esteem
  - c. over-confidence
  - d. unwanted generosity
16. The writer advises us to follow a person who.....
- a. is materialistic
  - b. runs after money
  - c. is selfish
  - d. can resist the power of money

## Answer Key

Question No.	Answer						
1	<b>a</b>	5	<b>c</b>	9	<b>c</b>	13	<b>d</b>
2	<b>d</b>	6	<b>c</b>	10	<b>a</b>	14	<b>a</b>
3	<b>d</b>	7	<b>a</b>	11	<b>c</b>	15	<b>a</b>
4	<b>c</b>	8	<b>b</b>	12	<b>b</b>	16	<b>d</b>

## **Personality 1**

### **RATAN TATA**

#### **Summary**

Ratan Tata, born on December 28, 1937 in Mumbai, is an Indian industrialist, philanthropist. He is the adoptive grandson of Jamshetji Tata, founder of the Tata group. His father Naval Tata had been adopted from distant relative by Jamshetji's childless son, named Ratan Tata. His parents (Naval and his first wife Sooni) separated when Ratan was seven and his younger brother Jimmy was five years old. Both were raised by his grandmother, Lady Navajbai in the lap of luxury at Tata Palace.

Ratan Tata started schooling at the Champion School in Bombay and the Bishop Cotton School in Shimla. He finished his secondary education at the Cathedral and John Conon School. He completed his BS in architecture from Cornell University in 1962, and latter, the Advanced Management Program from Harvard Business School in 1975. Ratan Tata began his career in the Tata Group in 1962. He initially worked on the shop floor of Tata Steel. He joined at the TISCO plant at Jamshedpur for six years. Here he learned both the technical aspects of the company's products and the corporate value of the Tata Group.

Given charge of two sick companies in the Tata Group,. Nelco and Central India Textiles,. he managed a turnaround in both companies within a few years. and was made Chairman of Tata Industries, In 1991 after JRD Tata stepped down. Innovation was given priority and Younger talent responsibilities. Under Ratan Tata's stewardship, Tata Tea acquired Tetley, Tata Motor acquired Jaguar, Land Rover and Tata Steel acquired Corus. All of which turned Tata from a largely India centric group into a global business, with 65 percent of their revenue coming from abroad. He also pushed the development of the Tata Indica and the Tata Nano.

The TATA Group was also forerunner in the emerging software field through Ratan's pet project-the Tata Consultancy Services. Both these ventures put the Tatas in the top in the Indian and international economy. The existing businesses were improved. They bounced back into market leadership positions in spite of intense competition. His radical change in the group philosophy was questioned by the senior management team. But Ratan Tata won many such tough situations, and carried on the legacy of his predecessors capably.

On 31st January 2007, under the chairmanship of Ratan Tata, Tata Sons successfully acquired Corus Group-an Anglo-Dutch steel and aluminum producer. The merger created the fifth largest steel-producing entity in the world. On 26th March 2008, Tata Motors bought Jaguar and Land Rover, the two iconic British brands, from Ford motor company. This gave him creditability in the passenger vehicle segment. Ratan Tata's dream was to manufacturer a car costing just rupees 1,00,000. He realized his dream by launching the Tata Nano car in the New Delhi Auto Expo on 10th January 2008. His vision to steer each of the Tata Group companies toward growth and profit has come true.

Ratan Tata retired from all executive responsibility in the Tata Group on 28 December 2012, which was also his 75th birthday. He succeeded by Cyrus Mistry, the son of Pallonji Mistry and managing director of Shapoorji Pallonji Group. Later on Cyrus Mistry was removed as the

chairman of Tata Sons. Ratan Tata was made interim chairman of the two main Trusts- Sir Dorabji Tata and allied Trusts which together hold 66% of shares in the group holding company Tata Sons.

Ratan Tata has served in various capacities in organizations in India and abroad. He is a member of the Prime Minister's Council on Trade and Industry. He is on the board of governors on of East-West Centre, the advisory board of R&D's Centre for Asia Pacific Policy and serves on the program board of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's India AIDS initiative. He is also the chairman of major Tata companies such as Tata Steel, Tata Motors, Tata Teleservices. Power, Tata Consultancy Services, Tata Tea, Tata Chemicals, and The Indian Hotels Company.

Ratan Tata's foreign affiliations include membership of the international advisory board of the Mitsubishi Corporation, the American International Group, JP Morgan Chase and Booz Allen Hamilton. He is also a member of the board of trustees of the R&D corporations, University of Southern California and Cornell University. He also serves as a board member on South Africa international Investment Council and is a member of the Asia-Pacific advisory committee for the New York Stock Exchange.

He was honored with Padma Bhushan in 2000 and Padma Vibhushan in 2008 by the government of India. Lifetime Achievement Award awarded by Rockefeller Foundation in 2012. Knighthood was conferred upon him in 2009 with the second-highest knighthood award- the Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire (K.B.E.)

He was also conferred an honorary doctorate in business administration by Ohio State University, an honorary doctorate in technology by the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, and an honorary doctorate in science by the University of Warwick. Tata has a personal fortune of GBP 300 million and owns less than 1% of the colossal group. Over two thirds of Tata Group is owned by charitable trusts that finance good causes.

Although Tata said he has no personal icons, a personal credo that he persistently returns to is the need for a level playing field. 'My dream India is where every Indian has an equal opportunity to shine on merit. In a country like ours, you have to try to live and lead by example, not flaunt your wealth and prominence.'

### **Answer each of the following questions in short**

#### **1. List some of the major awards that Ratan Tata received.**

Ans- Ratan Tata was honoured with the Padma Bhushan in 2000 and Padma Vibhushan in 2008, the third and second highest civilian honors' awarded by the government of India. He was awarded Lifetime Achievement Award by Rockefeller Foundation in 2012. Knighthood was conferred upon him in 2009 by the government of UK. He was also conferred an honorary doctorate in business administration by Ohio State University, an honorary doctorate in technology by the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, and an honorary doctorate in science by the University of Warwick.

**2. How did Ratan Tata turn around the companies he was given charge of?**

Ans- Ratan Tata assumed more senior positions in Tata Group in 1968. Ratan Tata was given charge of two sick companies in the Tata Group. Nelco and Central India Textiles. It was difficult experience for him. His perseverance and hard work bore fruit when he was made Chairman of Tata Industries. In 1991, JRD Tata stepped down as Tata Industries Chairman, naming Ratan as his successor. Ratan faced lot of problems from many companies' seniors. He settled the problems. Innovation was given priority. At the same time Younger talent was given responsibilities. He created an intense culture of competitiveness within the Tata Group. During this period Ratan Tata decided and planned to convert the Tata Group into a highly competitive and diversified Group of Companies.

**3. How did people initially react when Ratan Tata took charge of the TATA Group?**

Ans- Initially Ratan Tata was criticized for lacking experience in running a company at the scale of Tata Industries. He sensed the consumer revolution. He created an intense culture of competitiveness within the Tata Group. However under Ratan Tata's stewardship, Tata Tea acquired Tetley, Tata Motors acquired Jaguar Land Rover and Tata Steel acquired Corus. All of these turned Tata from India Centric Company into a Global Business. Ratan Tata's chairmanship was widely accepted by the business community and within the TATA Group. The TATA Group was also forerunner in the emerging software field through Ratan's pet project-the Tata Consultancy Services. Both these ventures put the Tatas in the top echelons in the Indian and international economy.

**4. Describe some of the acquisitions that were made by Ratan Tata.**

Ans - Ratan Tata's chairmanship was widely accepted by the business community and within the TATA Group. On 31 January 2007, under the chairmanship of Ratan Tata, Tata sons successfully acquired Corus Group-an Anglo-Dutch steel and aluminum producer. It created the fifth largest steel producing entry in the world. On 26th March 2008, Tata Motors bought Jaguar and Land Rover, the two iconic British brands from Ford motor company. Ratan Tata's dream was to manufacture a car costing just Rs. 1,00,000/- It come into reality by launching the Tata Nano car. His dream to steer each of the Tata Group companies towards growth and profit has come true.

**5. Briefly describe the various companies under the umbrella of Tata sons.**

Ans- Tata sons Private Limited is the holding company of Tata Group and holds the bulk of shareholding in the Tata Group of Companies. It is a global enterprise comprising 30 companies across to verticals. The group operator in more than 100 countries across six continents. Tata sons are the principal investment holding company and Promoter of Tata companies. Some of the major Tata companies such are Tata Steel, Tata Motors, Tata Teleservices, Tata Power, Tata Consultancy Services, Tata Tea, Tata Chemicals, and The Indian Hotels Company. Tata Consultancy Service is an IT services consulting and business solutions. Tata Steel Limited was established in India as Asia's first integrated private Steel Company in 1907. Tata Motors Limited is one of the leading automobile manufacturers in the world.

**6. Write your assessment of Ratan Tata's assessments and his contribution to Indian industry.**

Ans- Ratan Tata began his career in the Tata Group in 1962. He took the Tata group to a new height by changing conventional business approach. He learned both the technical aspects of the company's products and the corporate value of the Tata Group. Under his stewardship, Tata Tea acquired Tetley, Tata Motors acquired Jaguar Land Rover and Tata Steel acquired Corus. All of these turned Tata from India Centric Company into a Global Business. Ratan Tata's chairmanship was widely accepted by the business community and within the TATA Group. On 31 January 2007, under the chairmanship of Ratan Tata, Tata sons successfully acquired Corus Group-an Anglo-Dutch steel and aluminum producer. It created the fifth largest steel producing entry in the world. On 26th March 2008, Tata Motors bought Jaguar and Land Rover, the two iconic British brands from Ford motor company. Ratan Tata's dream was to manufacture a car costing just Rs. 1,00,000/- It come into reality by launching the Tata Nano car. He was a chairman of Tata Group from 1990 to 2012.

**7. 'Ratan sensed the consumer revolutions.' How did he turn his vision into profitable business?**

Ans- Ratan sensed the consumer Revolution. He decided to convert the Tata Group into a highly competitive and diversified Group of Companies. The TATA Group was also forerunner in the emerging software field through Ratan's pet project-the Tata Consultancy Services. Tata sons Private Limited is the holding company of Tata Group and holds the bulk of shareholding in the Tata Group of Companies. It is a global enterprise comprising 30 companies across to verticals. The group operators in more than 100 countries across six continents. Some of the major Tata companies such are Tata Steel, Tata Motors, Tata Teleservices, Tata Power, Tata Consultancy Services, Tata Tea, Tata Chemicals, and The Indian Hotels Company. Tata Consultancy Service is an IT services consulting and business solutions.

**Multiple Choice Questions.**

1. When was Ratan Tata born?
  - a. 28-Dec-37
  - b. 12-Jan-38
  - c. 15-Sep-39
  - d. 28-Dec-40
  
2. How many civilian awards has Ratan Tata received?
  - a. 1
  - b. 2
  - c. 3
  - d. 4

3. From where did Ratan Tata completed his Advance Management Program?
  - a. London School of Economics
  - b. Coventry University
  - c. Middlesex University
  - d. Harvard Business School
  
4. When was Ratan Tata appointed as the chairman of Tata Group?
  - a. 1962
  - b. 1991
  - c. 1993
  - d. 1994
  
5. Under Ratan Tata's Supervision Tata Tea acquired\_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Lipton
  - b. Tetley
  - c. Brooke Bond
  - d. Twinings
  
6. Under Ratan Tata's leadership, Tata Motors acquired which British auto company\_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Audi
  - b. BMW
  - c. Mercedes
  - d. Jaguar Land Rover
  
7. Who is the father of Ratan Tata?
  - a. Naval Tata
  - b. Navajbai Tata
  - c. J.R.D Tata
  - d. Noel Tata
  
8. Ratan Tata is the adoptive great grandson of Tata group founder\_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Naval Tata
  - b. Noel Tata
  - c. Jamsetji Tata
  - d. Navaj Tata
  
9. Which Indian business leader was awarded the highest honour by the city of Coventry on 1st October 2015?
  - a. Kumaramangalam Birla
  - b. Harsh Goenka
  - c. Adi Godrej
  - d. Ratan Tata

10. Who has been removed as director of TATA Industries on 12th Dec, 2016?
- Cyrus Mistry
  - Ratan Tata
  - Cyrus Dastur
  - None of the above
11. On 31 January 2007, under the chairmanship of Ratan Tata, Tata Sons successfully acquired Corus Group\_\_\_\_\_.
- an Anglo Dutch steel and aluminum producer
  - an Indian steel and aluminum producer
  - an Anglo-Indian steel and aluminum
  - None of the above
12. Ratan Tata retired from all executive responsibility in the Tata Group on\_\_\_\_\_.
- 25 December 2013
  - 25 January 2012
  - 20 January 2013
  - 28 December 2012.
13. Which car costing 1,00,000 was launched by Ratan Tata in 2008?
- Jaguar
  - Tata Nano
  - Tata Indica
  - Indigo
14. Based on the speech delivered, which of the following best describes Ratan Tata's experiences at Cathedrals?
- He enjoyed school life and took part in as many extracurricular activities as he could.
  - He relished and active student life and social life.
  - Through he did not enjoy school, he excelled in mathematics.
  - School was not the most enjoyable period of his life, especially since on teacher made things difficult for him.
15. Which of the following best captures Ratan Tata's attitude towards work?
- dedicated and eager to learn
  - unenthusiastic
  - experimental
  - naïve

16. Where did Ratan Tata begin his career?

- a. Harvard Business School
- b. Alfa Sigma Phi
- c. Tata Steel
- d. Nelco and Central India Textiles

17. In the 1980s, what tragedy did Ratan Tata suffer?

- a. The difficult experience of being in charge of two companies in decline.
- b. The death of his mother to cancer.
- c. Facing criticism for taking over as Chairman of Tata Industries.
- d. none of the above

18. Which of the following key values did Ratan Tata try to instill in the Tata Group when he took over?

- a. an eagerness to expand territories
- b. innovation and customer values
- c. growth and financial strength
- d. a mature code of conduct

19. Why, in your opinion, did Ratan Tata want to build the Tata Nano?

- a. to make a car that was affordable to all
- b. to be at the forefront of innovation
- c. to ensure the Tata Groups profits were in line with expectations
- d. to capitalize on an untapped segment of the market

20. What is the foundation of Ratan Tata's dream India?

- a. wealth
- b. prominence
- c. opportunity
- d. equality

### Answer Key

Question No.	Answer						
1	<b>a</b>	6	<b>d</b>	11	<b>a</b>	16	<b>c</b>
2	<b>b</b>	7	<b>a</b>	12	<b>d</b>	17	<b>b</b>
3	<b>d</b>	8	<b>c</b>	13	<b>b</b>	18	<b>b</b>
4	<b>b</b>	9	<b>d</b>	14	<b>c</b>	19	<b>a</b>
5	<b>b</b>	10	<b>a</b>	15	<b>a</b>	20	<b>c</b>

## **Personality 2**

### **SUNDAR PICHAI**

#### **Summary**

Sundar Pichai was born on July 12<sup>th</sup> 1972 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India. He was from a middle class family. He grew up in a two-room apartment. His mother Laxmi was a stenographer and father Regunatha was an electrical engineer in the British multinational company GEC. Sundar was always interested in the work his father did and had long conversations about it even as a young boy. He was good at football and cricket.

Sundar Pichai completed schooling in Jawahar Vidyalaya, a Central Board of Secondary Education school in Ashok Nagar, Chennai and completed the Class XII from VanaVani School at Chennai. He earned his degree (B. Tech) from IIT Kharagpur in metallurgical engineering. He holds an M.S. from Stanford University in materials science and engineering, and an MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, where he was named a Siebel Scholar and Palmer Scholar, respectively. Pichai began his career as a materials engineer. According to one of his former teachers, 'He was doing work in the field of electronics at a time when no separate course on electronics existed in our curriculum'. His thesis dealt with implanting molecules of other elements in silicon wafers to alter its properties.

Sundar Pichai joined Google in 2004, where he led the product management and innovation efforts for a suite of Google's client software products, including Google Chrome and Chrome OS. In addition, he went on to oversee the development of other applications such as Gmail and Google Maps. In 2013, Pichai added Android to the list of Google products that he oversaw.

Sundar Pichai was selected to become the next CEO of Google on August 10, 2015, after previously being appointed Product Chief by CEO, Larry Page. On October 24, 2015, he stepped into the new position at the completion of the formation of Alphabet Inc., the new holding company for the Google company family. In December 2019, he became the CEO of Alphabet Inc. With its latest product, Google Assistant, it is clear that Google has now actively embraced artificial intelligence (AI) technology. Pichai has been leading figure in it.

Google's quality has raised fears of a world monopolized and controlled by large corporates such as Apple, Amazon and Google. Recently data privacy on social sites such as Facebook and WhatsApp make it even clearer that unless consumers consciously inform themselves and ask for control their private data, corporations may use for their own financial and Political gain.

Technology needs to be used with care, and the benefits balanced with risks. While it is unlikely that the world will revert to the Pre-Google world in the near future, innovation in technology seems to be working towards making it simple to use without letting encroach into personal space. Pichai has proved to be instrumental in the field of Google and its innovations.

## **Answer the following questions in short**

### **1. Describe Pichai's attitude towards A.I.**

With its latest product, Google Assistant, it is clear that Google has now actively embraced Artificial Intelligence technology. Pichai has been leading figure in it. He says artificial intelligence is going to have a bigger impact on the world than some of the most universal innovations in history. Pichai also points out that “it is important to help people understand that they use AI today. AI is just making computers more intelligent and being able to do a wide variety of tasks and we take it for granted whenever something happens and we adopt it,” AI is forcing change upon companies, workers and society's infrastructure. “It is important to understand that tomorrow, whether Google is there or not, artificial intelligence is going to progress.

### **2. Why are there concerns about google's pervasiveness?**

Google's pervasiveness has raised fears of a world monopolized and controlled by large corporates such as Apple, Amazon and Google. Recently data privacy on social media sites such as Facebook and Whatsapp make it even clearer that unless consumers consciously inform themselves and ask for control for their private data, corporations may use it for their own financial and political gain. Technology needs to be used with care, and benefits balanced with risks. While it is unlikely that the world will revert to the pre-Google world in the near future, innovation in technology seems to be working towards making it simple to use without letting in encroach into personal space.

### **3 Describe the character of Sundar Pichai.**

Pichai Sundararajan was born in a middle class family. His father was an electrical engineer for the British multinational company, GEC. His mother used to be a stenographer before having children. He was always interested in his father's work and had long conversations about it even as a young boy. After his schooling education he joined IIT Kharagpur and studied Metallurgical Engineering (B.Tech). Then he went to Stanford USA. He earned master's degree (MS) in Engineering and Material Science and later he got management degree (MBA) from the Wharton School of Business. He was always a topper in his class.

Pichai joined the Google bandwagon years ago as a product manager. He started to rise rapidly through the ranks and was made CEO of the company. His journey to success is one with a lot of hard work and dedication to his craft.

### **4. What impression has Pichai left on colleagues, teachers and mentors?**

Pattu Subramanian, who was two years senior to Pichai in school, remembers him as a quiet worker, studious and a bookish type. “He used to have a smile on his face and (was) kind of a bookworm. I had never thought this shy boy would one day become so big,” he said. His friend Prashant Tripathy, director and CEO of Max Life Insurance, who stayed in the same wing of the hostel Nehru Hall during their IIT days says found him sharp and articulate. When discussions took place within the group, Pichai would take center stage. Pichai's passion for cricket and movies and how discussions about them led to many late nights. Professor Sanat

Kumar Roy who taught at the IIT Kharagpur remembers that Pichai was doing work in the field of electronics at a time when no separate course on electronics existed in curriculum. His thesis dealt with implanting molecules of other elements in silicon wafers to alter its properties. He was enthused about electronics and materials.

### **5. Why is data privacy linked so closely to innovation in technology?**

Technology needs to be used with care, and the benefits balanced with risks, While it is unlikely that the world will revert to the Pre-Google world in the near future, innovation in technology seems to be working towards making it simple to use without letting it encroach into personal space.

In a blog that declared Sundar Pichai's elevation as CEO of Google Inc. Larry Page said, "we have long believed that over time companies tend to get comfortable doing the same thing, just making incremental changes. But in the technology industry, where revolutionary ideas drive the next big growth areas, we need to be a bit uncomfortable to stay relevant."

Caution and strategic retraining are necessary because there is no way to stem the tsunami of technological innovation once, nor should there be. Technology is going to continue, it is going to continue to move forward. You need to move forward with that technology responsibly.

### **Multiple Choice Questions**

1. Where did Sundar Pichai spend his childhood?
  - a. Mumbai
  - b. Bangalore
  - c. Chennai
  - d. Ahmadabad
2. Which company did Pichai's father work for as an electrical engineer ?
  - a. Airbus
  - b. General Electric
  - c. Ford
  - d. Rolls-Royce
3. What did Pichai study at IIT Kharagpur ?
  - a. Mechanical Engineering
  - b. Software Engineering
  - c. Chemical Engineering
  - d. Metallurgical Engineering
4. In 2015, Pichai became the CEO of which company?
  - a. Apple
  - b. Microsoft
  - c. IBM
  - d. Google

5. What did Sundar Pichai make into a household name?
  - a. Android
  - b. ioogle
  - c. Chrome browser
  - d. Google toolbar
  
6. After studying at IIT Kharagpur, which university awarded Pichai a scholarship?
  - a. Stanford
  - b. Columbia
  - c. Brown
  - d. Princeton
  
7. Which of these sports is Pichai a big fan of ?
  - a. Athletics
  - b. Golf
  - c. Cricket
  - d. Chess
  
8. What did Pichai drop out of Stanford to pursue?
  - a. A management job at General Electric
  - b. To start his own software development business
  - c. To launch the Bing internet browser
  - d. A management job at Applied Materials
  
9. In 2002 Pichai completed an MBA at the University of Pennsylvania. After, he was employed as a management consultant at which firm?
  - a. The Boston Consultancy Group
  - b. McKinsey & Company
  - c. Bain & Company
  - d. Ernst & Young
  
10. What does Google's investment in Google Assistant signify?
  - a. A significant shift in the tech industry in embrace the benefits of artificial intelligence
  - b. A significant shift in the tech industry to invest in privacy-saving measures
  - c. A push to priorities Google apps in android
  - d. Remarkable change in the way we now use our phones
  
11. Why, in the modern era of Facebook, Twitter and Whatsapp, is data privacy important?
  - a. Because our online behavior must be monitored for our own safety.
  - b. Because it prevents the spread of false information.
  - c. Because data privacy ensures online users behave responsibly.
  - d. Because personal date might be manipulated by corporations for their own gain.

12. In which year was Sundar Pichai employed by Google ?
- 2010
  - 2008
  - 2006
  - 2004
13. What is Larry Page's opinion when it comes to the field of technology?
- That innovation requires confronting and negotiating uncomfortable realities.
  - That technology must never settle into comfortable pattern
  - That revolutionary ideas require patience and dedication
  - That safe, incremental change is the best way forward
14. What did he first work on at Google?
- Google Search Toolbar
  - Google Video Player
  - Google+
  - Google Drive
15. What Google product, which was officially launched in 2012, did Pichai convince co-founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin to create ?
- Google+
  - Google Chrome Browser
  - Chrome book
  - Google Maps
16. Pichai is known for having a good memory of what?
- Addresses
  - Names
  - Constellations
  - Numbers
17. 'It's more profound than [...] electricity or fire.' What is this line in reference to?
- A.I
  - Goggle Assistant.
  - Chrome browser
  - None of the above
18. What point does Sundar Pichai's former teacher make?
- That his work was revolutionary
  - That he was enthusiastic about A.I.
  - That his work on Electronic has been instrumental to Google's success
  - That even in his thesis there could be found evidence of his desire to shift to a cloud – based platform

19. What, according to the text, does technology need to balance?

- a. Financial gain with growth
- b. Ease of use with data privacy
- c. Innovation with relevance
- d. Pervasiveness with usefulness

20. In 2014, Pichai became Product Chief of which of these products?

- a. YouTube
- b. Android
- c. Google+
- d. AdSense

### Answer Key

Question No.	Answer						
1	<b>c</b>	6	<b>a</b>	11	<b>c</b>	16	<b>d</b>
2	<b>b</b>	7	<b>c</b>	12	<b>d</b>	17	<b>a</b>
3	<b>d</b>	8	<b>d</b>	13	<b>d</b>	18	<b>c</b>
4	<b>d</b>	9	<b>b</b>	14	<b>a</b>	19	<b>c</b>
5	<b>c</b>	10	<b>a</b>	15	<b>c</b>	20	<b>b</b>

## **Personality 3**

### **Louis Braille**

#### **Summary**

Louis Braille was born on 4 January 1809 in a small French village of Coupvray. He is known for creation of a system of reading and writing for the blind. This system is very useful for the blind for learning and communication.

Braille was a naturally inquisitive child. Once while playing with awl, his fathers' tool to punch holes in leather, he injured his right eye. The infection spread to the left eye and Braille lost complete sight when he was five. Life became difficult for him. Braille, however, never complained and mastered the handicap with relative ease and comfort.

While studying at the National institute for Blind Youth, the students used a system for the blind which had limitations. It enabled the blind to read. The system was not helpful for writing. It was a frustrating experience for Braille with this system. He yearned for a system that would help the blind to both read and write. He was inspired by Barbier's 'Night System' which was used by soldiers on the battlefield for communication. However, it was a difficult system. Braille decided to simplify the system. He worked tirelessly and eventually created a system after several revisions, in 1837, where letters could be recognized by a single touch of a finger. It was a remarkable achievement.

The Braille's system was admired by students but the board of the school showed little interest in this new system. It was two years after Braille's death that the system was adopted by the school. Later the system spread across the globe due to its usefulness. The Braille's system has now become an essential part of life of the blind.

#### **Answer the following questions in short**

##### **1. What role did the awl play in Braille's life?**

As a child, Braille was naturally curious about things around him. Once he was trying to mimic his father's role as a leatherer. He was punching holes in leather using an awl. While doing this, the awl accidentally glanced off and hit Braille's right eye. The eye got infected. In spite of the medical treatment, the infection spread to the left eye and blinded Braille when he was just five years old.

Braille wanted to develop a system that would enable the blind persons to read and write. Working for years, he created the Braille's system with the help of an awl. It was the same tool that had blinded him when he was a child. Ironically, with the help of the same tool, he created a system with which the blind could read and write.

##### **2. Write how Braille's system came to be.**

While Braille was a student at National Institute for Blind Youth, a system was used for the blind students to read. This system had its limitations. Braille found that while he was able to read with the help of the system, he could not write with it. Braille always wanted to develop a system that would enable a blind person to read and write with ease. So, he began to develop

the system. At this time, he was inspired by Barbier's system known as 'Night Writing'. This system was too complicated. Braille worked tirelessly to simplify it. He completed the first version of Braille's system in 1824. By 1837, Braille improvised the system where letters could be recognized by a single touch of a finger. This system proved very effective and later spread across the globe as the universal Braille's system.

### **3.How was Braille's system received when it was published?**

The board running the Royal Institute for Blind Youth showed little interest in the Braille's system when it was published. They believed that the existing Valentin Haüy's system was perfect and there was no need to introduce the new Braille's system in the school. In fact, the Headmaster of the school was dismissed when he had translated a history book into Braille. The students of the school admired and used the Braille's system, but they did it secretly due to the board's disinterest in the system.

### **4.Describe the earlier system of reading that existed for the blind?**

The earlier system of reading for the blind was created by a philanthropist, Valentin Haüy. In this system, the raised imprints of Latin letters were embossed on heavy paper. The reader used his fingertips to trace the raised edges of the letters to 'read' a sentence.

This system had its limitations. The production of books with such system was very expensive. These books used to be very heavy and clumsy to carry. Moreover, this system could be used by the blind to 'read' only. It could not be used both for reading and writing purpose.

### **5.Describe the character of Louis Braille. Use examples from the text to support your answer.**

Louis Braille, since his childhood, was naturally curious about the things around him. While playing with his father's tool out of curiosity, he lost his sight at the age of five. His life became difficult. However, he was a courageous person. He never complained when it was difficult for him to make out ways in the countryside, blind. He mastered his handicap with relative ease and comfort. Braille always desired to develop a system which could help the blind not only to read but also to write easily. He was persistent in this effort. He worked tirelessly and developed the first version of Braille's system when he was only fifteen. Thus, Louise Braille was intelligent, inquisitive, innovative and perseverant. On account of these traits, he could make generous contribution for the blind. The Braille system has now become an essential element of life for the blind.

### **Multiple Choice Questions**

1. When was Louis Braille born?
  - a. 4 January 1809
  - b. 4 January 1810
  - c. 4 January 1811
  - d. 4 January 1812

2. What was Braille's father?
  - a. A successful Carpenter
  - b. A successful Doctor
  - c. A successful Leatherer
  - d. A successful Engineer
  
3. When had Louis Braille lost all sense of sight?
  - a. By the age of five
  - b. By the age of six
  - c. By the age of seven
  - d. By the age of eight
  
4. Till what age did Braille remained in the local school in his village?
  - a. Till he was eight years old
  - b. Till he was nine years old
  - c. Till he was ten years old
  - d. Till he was eleven years old
  
5. Who was the founder of the Royal Institute for Blind Youth?
  - a. Louis Phillip
  - b. Van Heusen
  - c. David Howarth
  - d. Valentin Haüy
  
6. Which of the following is correct?
  - a. Braille found himself with a particular talent for cello and organ
  - b. Braille found himself with a particular talent for guitar and piano
  - c. Braille found himself with a particular talent for Violin and saxophone
  - d. Braille found himself with a particular talent for cello and guitar
  
7. When was the Braille system first published?
  - a. 1828
  - b. 1829
  - c. 1830
  - d. 1832
  
8. Who was the captain of the French army who devised the system of communication for soldiers on the battlefield?
  - a. Charles Andrews
  - b. Charles Napier
  - c. Charles Darwin
  - d. Charles Barbier

9. Name the tool that blinded Braille which ironically helped him to create his own raised-dot-system?
- Awl
  - Tweezer
  - Spanner
  - Plie
10. Which of the following statement is incorrect?
- The board running the school showed little interest in Braille's system
  - Braille's pupils tried to implement the system in the school curriculum
  - Braille's pupils believed in the Braille's system
  - The board running the school showed great interest in the Braille's system
11. The Headmaster of the school was dismissed for translating which book into Braille's system?
- History Book
  - Latin Book
  - Astronomy Book
  - Physics Book
12. At what age had Braille to give up teaching due to his ill health?
- At the age of forty
  - At the age of forty-one
  - At the age of forty-two
  - At the age of forty-three
13. How many years after Braille's death his system was finally adopted by the school?
- Two years
  - Three years
  - Four Years
  - Five Years
14. In which year was the Universal Braille code for English formalized?
- 1935
  - 1940
  - 1945
  - 1932
15. Which of the following statements is incorrect?
- Braille himself was blind when he developed his system
  - Braille was naturally inquisitive
  - Braille's parents were supportive towards Braille
  - Braille was not inspired by Captain Charles Barbier's system

### Answer Key

Question No.	Answer	Question No.	Answer	Question No.	Answer
1	<b>a</b>	6	<b>a</b>	11	<b>a</b>
2	<b>c</b>	7	<b>b</b>	12	<b>c</b>
3	<b>a</b>	8	<b>d</b>	13	<b>a</b>
4	<b>c</b>	9	<b>a</b>	14	<b>d</b>
5	<b>d</b>	10	<b>d</b>	15	<b>d</b>

## Poem 1

### An Irish Airman Foresees His Death

W. B. Yeats

#### Summary

The poem 'An Irish Airman Foresees His Death' is composed by W. B. Yeats as an elegy to commemorate the death of Robert Gregory. The poem is written in the form of dramatic monologue. The speaker in the poem is Robert Gregory, an Irish airman and the son of one of Yeats's close friends Lady Gregory. He fought in World War I and was killed in action over the Italian front. The speaker expresses his views and intention before going to fighting in the war. The opening lines express that the speaker can see his future that he is going to be killed in the sky by an unknown enemy. He clearly states that he has no friendship with those for whom he is fighting and has no enmity with those whom he is fighting against. He goes on introducing himself that he does not belong to the country that partook in the war. His country is Kiltartan Cross, Ireland. The people of Kiltartan Cross are his compatriot. The defeat of war would not bring any loss or triumph would not bring any profit to his country. He is not bound by law, duty, political people or cheering up of the crowds. His only desire to join the war is to have the pleasure of an exciting or thrilling experience of war. He has wasted his previous years and he finds nothing in the years coming in his life. He feels that his life is futile and meaningless. So, he wants to balance his life with death.

#### Answer the following questions in short

**1. What is the Irish Airman attitude towards the war he is fighting in? How does he view his own fate in the light of the war?**

**Answer:** The Irish Airman's attitude towards the war he is fighting in is a sense of pleasure. He has no friendship with those for whom he is fighting and has no enmity with those whom he is fighting against. He is not bound by law, duty, political people or cheering up of the crowds. His desire to fly into battle comes from his indifference to both political and moral duty. He has nothing to do with the defeat or victory of the war. His personal desire is to have the pleasure of an exciting or thrilling experience of war and he finds his past and future meaningless. So, wants to meet his future and decides to accept death to balance his life.

**2. Is the speaker heroic in your opinion? Why or why not?**

**Answer:** No, the speaker is not heroic in my opinion. A hero is a man of action rather than thought. He accepts challenges for a particular purpose. He has to fight and die for the welfare of the people. He is a public figure. He loves his people and country. He brings glory to the nation at the cost of his life. His life is dedicated to serving the nation or people. On the contrary, the speaker in the poem takes part in the war just for the impulse of delight. He has nothing to do with the defeat or victory of the war. He is not fighting for the reason of patriotism, the welfare of the people and profit or loss of the nation. His life is not dedicated to the nation or people. He has a selfish desire to experience pleasure in the war. That is why I think the speaker in the poem is not heroic.

**3. The speaker says of his countrymen: ‘No likely end could bring them loss/ Or leave them happier than before’. Elaborate on this.**

**Answer:** The speaker in the poem is an Irish airman. His country was not a part of the war. He is not fighting for his country. His country is Kiltartan Cross, Ireland. He is not bound by duty, nation, political power or the people of his country. He expresses his desire to take part in World War I just for the ‘impulse of delight’. He thinks his life is meaningless when he sees it in the past or the future. He has to balance his life with death. He has no friendship with those for whom he is fighting and has no enmity with those whom he is fighting against. He and his country are completely indifferent to victory or defeat and profit or loss of the war. That is why the speaker says of his countrymen: ‘No likely end could bring them loss/ Or leave them happier than before’.

**4. Examine the use of binaries in the poem.**

**Answer:** Binary means something made of two things or parts. Binaries may be complementary and contradictory. Yeats used the binary words in the poem ‘An Irish Airman Foresees His Death’ to bring stress to the positive and negative thoughts expressed by the speaker. The speaker speaks about his concern with the war expressed with the words like ‘love’ and ‘hate’. The speaker goes on talking about the consequences of war i.e. ‘loss’ and ‘happier’(profit). He speaks about his future as ‘the years to come’ and past as ‘the years behind’. He thinks that his past and future life is useless. In the last line, he speaks about ‘life’ and ‘death’.

**5. Assess from your reading of the poem the objective, outcome and impact of war.**

**Answer:** The poem ‘An Irish Airman Foresees His Death’ by W. B. Yeats is an elegy to commemorate the death of Robert Gregory. The speaker, Robert Gregory, expresses his objective concern about his participation in the war. The speaker’s attitude is completely objective because he is not bound by law, duty, political people or cheering up of the crowds. He has no friendship with those for whom he is fighting and has no enmity with those whom he is fighting against. He does not even bother about the outcome of the war. He and his countrymen remain unaffected by the defeat or victory of the war. If he wins, he will not be happy and if he loses, he will not be sad.

### **Multiple Choice Questions**

1. Which of the following best captures the central themes of the poem?

- (a) Mysticism, honour
- (b) The common people, grace
- (c) War, life and death, fate
- (d) War, heroism, glory

2. What does the tone of the poem accomplish?

- (a) It sets a sense of fear and anger
- (b) It serves to glorify war.
- (c) It hints at meaninglessness of war.
- (d) None of the above.

3. Which of the following lines contradicts popular opinion held about war?
- (a) 'Those that I fight I do not hate'
  - (b) 'Those that I guard I do not love'
  - (c) My countrymen Kiltartan's poor, No likely end could bring them loss
  - (d) All of the above.
4. Britain drafted Irishmen to fight in World War I. Why is the fourth line significant?
- (a) To emphasise that the speaker's home and people are Irish, not English
  - (b) To illustrate how far from home the speaker is, and that this is not his war to fight
  - (c) To showcase how heartless the English were
  - (d) To showcase how heartless war had made the airman
5. What is the reason the Irish airman fights in this war?
- (a) Out of duty
  - (b) For honour and glory
  - (c) For cheering crowds and the people of Kiltartan
  - (d) None of the above
6. Where does the speaker think it will all end?
- (a) In the clouds above
  - (b) On a field in Italy somewhere
  - (c) In Ireland
  - (d) On the moon
7. What is another word for "airman"?
- (a) A guy made of air
  - (b) A baseball player
  - (c) A cricketer
  - (d) A pilot
8. What does the speaker say about the "years behind"?
- (a) They were awesome
  - (b) He can't remember them
  - (c) They were surprising
  - (d) They're a waste of breath
9. What does the phrase "years behind" refer to?
- (a) The eleventh century
  - (b) The future
  - (c) The past
  - (d) A cricket team from Northern Ireland

10. Where was the speaker driven?

- (a) To a tumult in the clouds
- (b) To Kiltartan
- (c) To the Atlantic Ocean
- (d) To Russia

11. What is the theme of the poem?

- (a) Loss innocence
- (b) The positive parts of war
- (c) Acceptance of death
- (d) Patriotism

12. What words from the poem convey the author's tone?

- (a) "Love, happier, delight"
- (b) "Lonely, loss, death"
- (c) "Cheering, fate, balance"
- (d) "The clouds above"

13. What does the line "No likely end could bring them loss or leave them happier than before"

- (a) They feel indifferent toward death. It wouldn't bring them pain or make them feel better.
- (b) The men are happy at war
- (c) They don't feel pain anymore when they see their friends die
- (d) They were happier before war

14. What will the speaker meet in the clouds?

His best friend

- (b) His fate
- (c) Clouds
- (d) The moon

15. What does the word "fate" most likely mean?

- (a) Slice of apple pie
- (b) Airplane
- (c) Death
- (d) Nothing

16. What are the last two words of the poem?

- (a) The waste
- (b) The clouds
- (c) My fate
- (d) This death

17. What is the speaker able to do?

- (a) Disappear
- (b) Foresee his death
- (c) Write poetry
- (d) The moon in the sky

18. What does the phrase "this life, this death" refer to?

- (a) Hell
- (b) Life as soldier, death in battle
- (c) Victory
- (d) Immortal

19. The poem is a dramatic monologue. What does that mean?

- (a) The speaker addresses the reader directly. A dramatic monologue usually involves a fictional speaker who may not necessarily speak the views of the poet.
- (b) It is meant to be read loudly to one person.
- (c) It contains frightening and thrilling passages.
- (d) None of the above

20. Who is the speaker in the poem?

- (a) W. B. Yeats
- (b) Robert Gregory
- (c) Lady Gregory
- (d) Mr. Gregory

21. What is the poetical type of the poem?

- (a) Elegy
- (b) Ballad
- (c) Song
- (d) Lyric

**Answer key**

<b>Ques</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>07</b>
<b>Option</b>	c	d	d	a	d	a	d
<b>Ques</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Option</b>	d	c	a	c	b	a	b
<b>Ques</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Option</b>	c	d	b	b	a	b	a

## Poem 2

### Money Madness

D.H.Lawrence

#### Summary

In this poem 'Money Madness' the poet D.H.Lawrence expresses his concern about the obsession people have for money. This obsession has gone to the extent of making people mad about money. Every individual has his own strain of insanity towards money. The whole human race is collectively mad in pursuit of money. In the pursuit of materialistic pleasure, man has become illogical; he has forgotten the true worth of a human being. It is really sad to see a man suffer so much pain having to part with just a 'pound note' and he literally shivers if he has to give away a ten-pound note. Money has a cruel power. It has the capacity to purchase everything and subjugate anyone. Therefore, man fears losing money because losing money is losing power and respect. Man will go to any extent to gain money. The worth of a man is judged by the monetary wealth he possesses. Those without money have to sacrifice their pride and beg for kindness and basic acts of humanity. The money-mad fellow men make these poor people sacrifice their self-esteem, feel degraded and beg for mercy. This is more fearful than living in poverty. The poet makes an appeal to make the basic needs of life - bread, shelter and fire freely available to everyone all over the world. He persuades people to regain their sanity about money, makes them aware of the disastrous effect of this money- madness which might eventually lead people to killing each other for it.

#### Answer each of the following questions in short

**1. Why does Lawrence say that the present attitude towards money is all wrong? What are the changes he wants to see in society?**

D.H.Lawrence is really dejected and pained to see people madly in pursuit of money. Money has brought in cruel power, created a situation of unfair competition, rivalry and selfishness. It is an injustice to a human being to beg to eat and stay alive. The wrong notion that money is power will lead to doom and destruction. He wishes to make people realise that money is not the be-all and end-all of everything. Money cannot buy love and happiness. Man's worth should be determined by the virtues and qualities he possesses. The poet feels that if the basic necessities of life are given free to all the people, the madness about money will reduce to a great extent and lead to harmonious existence. The poet wants people to respect one another and shun from degrading human life.

**2. Why does he call this 'collective' madness? What happens to an individual when the multitude is mad?**

As each and every individual has gone mad in the illogical pursuit of money, the poet calls it 'collective madness'. In this age of industrialization people have forgotten the true worth and values of virtues. The whole human race is after material pleasures which are temporary and cannot give ultimate peace and fulfilment. The money mindedness is making man self-centred and distancing him from one another. Every human being has qualities like mercy, pity,

compassion, peace and love which make him humane. These virtues take him away from hatred, jealousy, ill will, animosity and cruelty. But when everyone collectively engages in a wrong pursuit like the madness to possess money, it takes its toll on innocent lives too. They are compelled and dragged into this wrong action. If an individual is not money-minded he might not be rich and powerful then this multitude of people will dishonour him, humiliate him and make him beg for food and shelter. To avoid eating this dirt, slowly everyone gets engaged in the wrong and mad pursuit of money without thinking that it will lead the whole human race towards self-destruction.

### **3.What are the three items which the poet considers should be free? Why?**

The poet feels that bread, shelter and fire should be free because they are the necessities of life. A person can live without luxuries but a person cannot stay alive without food, shelter and protection. This mad pursuit of money is to gain the comforts and luxuries of life. This money-madness is to gain control of resources and other people's lives. The cruel power thus achieved makes a moneyed person cast all the injustices on the deprived and poor man making him lose his self-esteem and eat dirt. But if bread, shelter and fire are provided free to him, he will not be required to subjugate himself to the ill treatment by the rich. He can live his virtuous life without compromising or sacrificing his dignity and self-respect. Then this cruel hunger for money will reduce, the true worth of people would be realised and the world will move towards harmonious existence.

### **4.How does Lawrence show that the possession of money is a kind of madness? What evidence does he bring up to substantiate his argument? Do you feel that the same situation exists today?**

In the poem 'Money Madness' Lawrence shows that the possession and pursuit of money is a kind of madness because it makes people inhuman and unjust. He considers it illogical as people has this obsession for wealth to get all the material comforts, gain power and control other's lives which ironically will not give happiness, peace and fulfilment. Money-madness instils fear in a person- fear of losing wealth, self-esteem and life supports. In the poem he mentions that 'money makes us quail', parting with money is 'a real tremor' and it is 'not money that one is terrified of, it is the collective money-madness of mankind which considers the worth of a man on the basis of the material wealth he possesses. The madness reaches the limit when a person feels that 'if I have no money, I will have to eat dirt'. The same situation exists today; it has worsened as today man is killing man for money. Man is forgetting his morals and indulging in crimes. The lure of money is making him selfish, self-centered, power hungry and in turn leading him towards self-destruction.

### **6.Lawrence offers some solutions to the problems caused by money-mindedness. Do you think they are practical? What are the solutions for this problem at the individual and societal level?**

Lawrence suggests that if bread, shelter and fire which are the basic necessities of life are given free to everyone all over the world, the problems caused by money-mindedness will be reduced to a large extent because man requires food to survive. For survival man can stoop down to any level. The practical solution suggested is that if the government provides food and shelter to

the poor, most of the problems would be solved. The crimes which are committed to satiate hunger would be drastically reduced and people would indulge in worthwhile activities. This would be tremendously beneficial for the society. At the individual level, a person should be satisfied. Satisfaction, contentment are the key words. If a person is not satisfied with what he has then greed for money has no end. Educating people to having the right goals in life and helping them understand the true meaning of life will make them rise above this money-mindedness and get rid of the evils associated with it.

### Multiple Choice Questions

1. Which of the following best captures the central themes of the poem 'Money Madness'?
  - a) money, madness, delight
  - b) money, power, glory
  - c) power, obsession, servitude
  - d) freedom, choice, charity
  
2. What is meant by the line 'we grovel before it in strange terror'?
  - a) Money has the capacity to drive people mad.
  - b) To be deprived of money is to be deprived of life.
  - c) To live without money is to live freely yet in fear.
  - d) Money holds such a control over our lives that we do everything we can to earn more money.
  
3. What is meant by the lines 'I shall have to eat dirt/if I have no money'?
  - a. Those without money face such squalor that they are literally forced to eat dirt to starve off hunger.
  - b. Those without money must sacrifice their pride and beg for kindness and basic acts of humanity.
  - c. Those without money must learn new skills in order to earn money and avoid a life of poverty.
  - d. Those without money are shunned by all levels of society
  
4. What, according to the poet, is 'wrong'?
  - a) that basic, yet essential human needs are not free but are commodified for other people's financial gain.
  - b) That people are charitable, while others are filled with fear at the mere thought of sharing money.
  - c) That money has such a powerfully positive impact on society
  - d) All of the above.

5. Which of the following binaries best represents what the poem is about?
  - a) freedom vs servitude
  - b) wealth vs poverty
  - c) joy vs despair
  - d) religion vs reason
  
6. How does man hand out a pound note according to the poet?
  - a) with a lot of pain and distress
  - b) with happiness
  - c) with the intention of charity
  - d) showing power of wealth
  
7. We quail, money makes us quail. Why?
  - a) The fear of losing money is losing power.
  - b) We tremble and lose heart when parting with money
  - c) Losing money will make us eat dirt
  - d) All of the above
  
8. On what basis is man's worth considered in this poem?
  - a) intellectual wealth
  - b) political power
  - c) monetary wealth
  - d) character
  
9. What is the poet afraid of?
  - a) Losing money
  - b) That he will be degraded in society
  - c) Money-mad fellow men
  - d) All of the above
  
10. Why should bread, shelter and fire be free?
  - a) because they are readily available
  - b) because they are the basic necessities of life
  - c) because they are cheap
  - d) all of the above

**Answer Key**

01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10
c	d	b	a	b	a	d	c	d	b

**Poem 3**  
**Stay Calm**

**Grenville Kleiser**

**Summary**

In this poem, Kleiser counsels readers to keep calm in the face of the many big and small problems of life. The poet advises that a tranquil temperament is the most potent weapon one can have against adversity. If we are able to conquer our emotions, we will not react easily to the provocations of the outside world and we will be able to achieve peace in the outer world too.

The central idea of the poem is that if you desire to win a worthwhile battle with your opponents then first you have to win a war over your emotions. You should learn to control your emotions. You should be a master of your emotions and feelings and not a slave. If you harbour anger, jealousy, hatred, then these negativities will compel you to take wrong decisions. You should conquer this battle through compassion and forgiveness.

The poet advises us to achieve equanimity in our emotions. No emotion should exceed while dealing with our enemy. We should maintain mental balance. Then we will be able to deal with the both the enemy who is visible or who is making covert plans. If you are having mental balance, you will be able to think in a cool manner and take wise decisions. Mental balance will also ensure that you have good health, which is also essential to overpower the enemy.

To sum up, the poet says that even if we are insulted, cheated, or our wishes are not deliberately fulfilled or even if we are confronted by an enemy who is seen, or if we are troubled by a foe who is in hiding, we should not lose our patience.

**Answer each of the following questions in short-**

**1. Examine the binary of Peace vs Turmoil in the poem.**

In this poem, Kleiser counsels readers to keep calm in the face of the many big and small problems of life. The poet advises that a tranquil temperament is the most potent weapon one can have against adversity.

The entire poem is about achieving mental peace to alleviate outward turmoil.

If we want peace in our relations with the outer world, then first we have to conquer the inner turmoil of emotions in our heart.

If we are able to conquer our emotions, we will not react easily to the provocations of the outside world and we will be able to achieve peace in the outer world too. Therefore, the poet uses the binary of turmoil and mental peace.

**2. Examine the theme of balance in the poem. Elaborate on this with examples from the text.**

In this poem, Kleiser counsels readers to keep calm in the face of the many big and small problems of life. The poet advises that a tranquil temperament is the most potent weapon one can have against adversity.

The poet advises us to achieve equanimity in our emotions. No emotion should exceed while dealing with our enemy. We should maintain mental balance. Then we will be able to deal with the both the enemy who is visible or who is making covert plans. If you are having mental balance, you will be able to think in a cool manner and take wise decisions. Mental balance will also ensure that you have good health, which is also essential to overpower the enemy.

The poet gives many examples where if we have not learnt to be calm, we will behave rashly and damage our own image. The poet says that even if we are insulted, cheated, or our wishes are not deliberately fulfilled or even if we are confronted by an enemy who is seen, or if we are troubled by a foe who is in hiding, we should not lose our patience.

**3. Paraphrase the message of the poem in your own words.**

In this poem, Kleiser counsels readers to keep calm in the face of the many big and small problems of life. The poet advises that a tranquil temperament is the most potent weapon one can have against adversity.

The central idea of the poem is that if you desire to win a worthwhile battle with your opponents then first you have to win a war over your emotions. You should learn to control your emotions. You should be a master of your emotions and feelings and not a slave. If you harbour anger, jealousy, hatred, then these negativities will compel you to take wrong decisions. You should conquer this battle through compassion and forgiveness.

**4. What according to the poet is the most vital thing in life, and why must we master it?**

In this poem, Kleiser counsels readers to keep calm in the face of the many big and small problems of life. The poet advises that a tranquil temperament is the most potent weapon one can have against adversity.

The most vital thing in life according to the poet is the ability to stay calm in each challenging situation.

The poet says that the world is full of people who are fighting with each other because of overpowering emotions like ambition, jealousy, and hatred. However, if you are able to experience inner peace and you have gained control over your negative emotions then you have achieved the most important life skill.

**5. Describe the tone of the poem. How does the tone contribute to the point the poet is trying to make?**

In this poem, Kleiser counsels readers to keep calm in the face of the many big and small problems of life. The poet advises that a tranquil temperament is the most potent weapon one can have against adversity.

The most vital thing in life according to the poet is the ability to stay calm in each challenging situation.

The tone of the poem is didactic. It means it tries to teach you. This tone lends a seriousness to the message that the poet is giving. It underlines the finality that if you do not learn to stay calm, you cannot achieve success.

**Multiple Choice Questions**

1. Which of the following verbs best captures what the speaker is endorsing?
  - a. Control
  - b. assures
  - c. win
  - d. wish
  
2. How according to the speaker, can you ensure you are not over whelmed by negative thoughts?
  - a. by striving for tranquility
  - b. by addressing them one by one
  - c. by rationalizing their pros and cons
  - d. by striving for apathy
  
3. Which of the following best represents the central theme of the poem?
  - a. poise
  - b. grace
  - c. strife
  - d. reason
  
4. Who is the poet of the poem Stay Calm?
  - a. John Keats
  - b. Robert Browning
  - c. Grenville Kleiser
  - d. William Wordsworth
  
5. What is the synonym for the word 'peeved' used by the poet in Stay Calm?
  - a. annoyed
  - b. happy
  - c. nervous
  - d. depressed

6. What is the other synonym used by the poet for the word ‘tranquil’ in Stay Calm?

- a. oppressed
- b. irritated
- c. depressed
- d. peaceful

7. What should we learn according to the poet, ‘Grenville Kleiser’?

- a. to keep strict silence
- b. to become annoyed
- c. to get irritated
- d. to remain pleased.

8. When should we maintain mental balance?

- a. when confronted by a foe
- b. when attacked by a friend
- c. while cheated by a close aid
- d. none of the above.

9. Which of the following is not the synonym of, ‘curb’?

- a. constrains
- b. check
- c. bridle
- d. liberates

10. What is the most vital thing in life?

- a. to avoid strife.
- b. to become irritated
- c. to avoid certain people
- d. to be poised and tranquil.

**Answer Key**

01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10
a	a	a	c	a	d	a	a	d	d

## Poem 4

### The Lotus

Toru Dutt

#### Summary

The god of love, Cupid, came to meet the goddess of flowers, Flora. He asked her to create a unique flower. It would be the undisputed queen of flowers. The lily and the rose have been rivals for this high honour for a very long time.

Important and powerful poets sang in the praise of their respective flowers. They put forward their claims. One group argued that the rose can never stand with dignity and grace like the pale coloured flower of a lily. Lily's face is like that of the face of Juno, the goddess of grace and beauty. They asked if the lily is lovelier than the rose.

Flowers divided themselves into factions. The rival factions assembled in the leafy garden of Psyche. They quarrelled among themselves. They staked the claims of their own flower. The rose and the lily were old rivals in the race.

The god of love asked Flora to give him a flower which may be as delicious as the rose. That flower must be as stately and graceful as the lily is. Flora asked, "What should be the colour of that flower?" The god of love first said, "Rose-red." Then he prayed, "No, the flower must be of white colour like that of the lily. In the end, he prayed that the flower must-have colours of both the lily and the rose."

Ultimately, the goddess of flowers, Flora, handed over her creation-the flower of lotus to the god of love, Cupid. The lotus fused both the colours the redness of the rose and the whitish colour of the lily. Undoubtedly, the lotus was unique and accepted as the queen of flowers by all.

#### Answer the following question in short

##### 1. Why couldn't Love choose between the two flowers?

**Ans.** The lily and the rose were old rivals. Both of them competed for the high honor of being called the undisputed queen of flowers. Both of them were proud of their beauty and grandeur. The rose was proud of its red color while the white lily had the grace of the face of goddess Juno. Even the poets had divided loyalties. One faction favoured the rose while the other sang in praise for the lily. Therefore, Love couldn't choose between the two flowers and came to Flora, the goddess of flowers. He asked flora to create a unique flower. The flower must be the most beautiful of all the flowers. It must be the undisputed queen of flowers.

**2. Why is the Lotus referred to as the ‘queenliest flower’ in the end?**

**Ans.** Cupid, the Roman god of love wanted Flora to create a unique flower. The flower must be the undisputed queen of flowers. First, Cupid wanted the intended flower to have the reddish color and beauty of the rose-the favourite of lovers. Then he changed his stand and wanted a flower that would have the beauty and grace of the lily. Cupid seemed to be confused. Then he demanded that the wished flower might be the fusion of the two. Flora resolved the conflict. By creating the lotus, she created a unique flower. It was to be the unquestioned queen of flowers. It would be the ideal fusion of the beauty and grace of the rose and the lily. (117 words)

**3. What, in your opinion, is the moral or message of the poem?**

**Ans.** The poet uses the rose and the lily in the poem to describe the West and the East. The ‘lily’ is a representation of the white race and the ‘rose’ depicting the reddish skin tone of the eastern race, such as her native India. Thus the poem ‘The Lotus’ indicates a fusion between the West and East.

The lotus is a unique flower. It is a fusion of the red rose and the pale-whitish lily. Actually, it is a unique blending and fusion of religions and cultures. The lotus is considered as a cultural symbol in the Indian society. It is the seat of Lord Vishnu and Goddess Laxmi. The lotus is a national symbol of India and the Hindu faith. The overall theme of the poem is the pride of India’s culture and Hindu religion. The poet wanted to acknowledge her Indian background for others to understand her love for her native country India. Although she had travelled and received her education abroad during her childhood, she still believes India to be her home. (175 words)

**4. Elaborate on the tone of the poem. How does the diction enhance or contribute to the tone ?**

**Ans.** ‘Diction’ is simply the author’s choice of words that conveys a particular meaning while ‘tone’ is the attitude or feeling that the writer’s words express. Thus, tone is largely determined by diction or the words that an author chooses. The poet has used easy and impressive language throughout the poem. She has very aptly made use of the tactful tone in the poem to convey its message to the readers. The use of personification, alliteration, various symbols and rich imagery adds charm to the poem and makes it easy for the readers to understand the theme of the poem. (100 words)

**5. Examine the use of personification in the poem.**

**Ans.** The poet has aptly made the use of personification in the poem. The poet has personified ‘Love’ as the god of love and ‘Flora’ as the goddess of flowers and vegetation. The poet has also beautifully depicted the ‘rose’ and the ‘lily’ as rivals. The ‘lily’ is a representation of the white race and the ‘rose’ depicting the reddish skin tone of the eastern race while the ‘lotus’ is the ideal fusion of the beauty and grace of the rose and the lily. Thus lotus, lily and rose have also been personified in the poem.

## Multiple Choice Questions

- Which of the following is an example of assonance?
  - 'Love came to Flora asking for a flower'
  - 'Bards of power/Had sung their claims'
  - 'And stately as the lily in her pride'
  - None of the above
- Which of the following is an example of alliteration?
  - 'Flower-factions rang the strife in Psyche's bower'.
  - 'Give me a flower delicious as the rose.'
  - 'And "lily - white" & the queenliest flower that blows.'
  - None of the above
- What was the 'high honour' for which the flowers were competing?
  - to be as 'delicious as the rose', and as 'stately as the lily'
  - to have Bards of power sing their claims
  - to be the 'undisputed queen' of all flowers
  - none of the above
- What is the significance of the colours of the lotus?
  - The lotus carries both colours that Love desires –it is red as a rose, and white as a lily.
  - The lotus is neither red nor white, thereby ending the dispute between the rose and the lily.
  - The colours of the lotus are the colours of victory.
  - All of the above
- What is meant by line, 'Like the pale lily with her Juno mien?'
  - It suggests the lily carries with it a dignified grace.
  - It suggests the rose carries with it a dignified grace.
  - It suggests the lily is favoured best considering it was the flower of Juno, goddess of marriage.
  - It suggests that while the lily is lovely, the rose is the loveliest of all flow

### Answer Key

<b>Question</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>05</b>
<b>Option</b>	<b>d</b>	<b>a</b>	<b>c</b>	<b>d</b>	<b>a</b>