

SECTION A

(READING)

Answers - 1

A a. The names of the two buildings in ~~Mano Majra~~ are the house of the money-lender Lala Ram Lal and the Sikh temple.

b. The keekar trees are growing around a pond at the western end of the village.

c. Only two slow passenger trains stop at Mano Majra. One is from Delhi to Lahore in the mornings and the other is from Lahore to Delhi in the evenings. Other trains stop only when they are held up.

d. The common object of worship that is visited by all the villagers is the three-foot tall slab of sandstone, which is the local deity, located under a keekar tree beside the pond. He is the 'deo' for all the villagers irrespective of their religion.

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B a. The expression 'The old order changeth, yielding place to new' means that King Arthur is now dying and leaving his throne to the new generation. This marks the end of his rule and dawning of a new king with new ideas and aspirations for his people.

b. The speaker - Arthur - asks the listener to pray for his soul if he fails to return. He asks the listener to pray for him as a friend day and night as he feels that prayers have the power to bestow upon a dead soul more than what we can dream about.

c. The figure of speech used in line 10-13 is similie for 'like a fountain for me day and night'.

d. The fact that humans can pray for their soul to God and have a mind that is conscious and ~~not~~ merely guided by survival instincts is what makes humans different from animals.

- e
- i) yielding (same as giving)
 - ii) friend (opposite of 'foe')

SECTION - B

Creative writing

Answer - 2

(a) Good morning to one and all present here. Standing before you today is Asmeeta, Secretary, Environment Conservation Club. I am here to share with you the achievements of the 'Swachh Bharat Mission' and also discuss what else needs to be done to promote the campaign.

It is rightly said that 'well begun is half done'. The mission started with our Honourable Prime Minister sharing enthusiastically with our countrymen the importance of clean surroundings. He in fact, launched the mission by sweeping the roads of New Delhi with his colleagues. Then the entire country, from schools to offices, from cities to villages joined in and have made the project a huge success. Our school also participated in the drive and cleaned the public garden located just near our school.

But the work is not yet complete. We still find people littering the roads and the public places. We still find that people do not segregate the waste properly and haphazardly discard it. We are not yet able to cleanse properly lanes where food is sold and people throw away paper-plates here and there. Our railways, our street drains and lifts and stairs at public places are still littered. We are yet to curb the pollution created by discarded plastics.

It is on these that our club will be focusing now to spread awareness among people and to have on-field campaigns to cleanse the areas wherever possible. I urge the support of the entire school in this endeavour. Let's make this project a huge success for our country, and make India the cleanest country in the world.

Jai Hind. Thank You

(b)

Plant more Trees

- Promissa

A recent research paper published by the World Environment Conservation Society pointed out that almost forty per cent of the world's oxygen is contributed by the Amazon rainforests alone. But the pace at which the rainforest is being cut down, the oxygen supply will be halved in the next ten years.

A similar fate can also be predicted for forests in India. This raises the concern that it is not only preservation of existing trees, but also afforestation that will help us get a constant rate of oxygen needed for survival in the environment.

Trees are the single largest source of oxygen on this planet. Several countries have come together to ensure that trees are saved. All schools of our region had recently arranged for a meeting of student leaders who will be campaigning for the protection of existing trees in the city. They will also encourage tree plantation activities.

It has also been suggested that all individuals can maintain a small garden in their neighbourhood. This will beautify the neighbourhood and ~~at~~ the same time, add on to the green cover.

Besides, as a part of community service project, all students of class XII were taken to an open ground to plant trees. The teachers and ~~the~~ principal are making all conscious efforts to inculcate the respect for nature in the students and encourage them to plant more trees.

It is hoped that the collective efforts of these youngsters will surely contribute ~~to~~ the conservation of the earth. All readers are requested to join the ~~program~~ effort and plant more trees.

Answer - 3

There is no greater wealth in this world than health and happiness. There is no wealth that can essentially buy health and happiness for a man.

Good morning, respected teachers, judges and my dear friends. I am Amrita and I am here to speak against the topic 'In today's world only wealthy people can afford to be healthy.'

Health does not only comprise of physical wellbeing. It also comprises of mental wellbeing. I feel that money can merely get out of a disease. It cannot, in most cases, prevent the occurrence of disease. True, there are vaccines, but fortunately, the government initiative allows them to be available for all irrespective of economic standing.

Thus, if every person exercises daily, eats a nutritious meal, maintains good relationships and a positive outlook towards

life, then he or she can be healthy all life and in fact, earn more wealth. Many people argue that nutritious food is only affordable by the wealthy. But I would like to cite that most wealthy people spend huge sums on junk food and processed food. Thus, some are taking in less calories than required due to poverty and some are taking in more and becoming obese. Wealth does not guarantee good health.

With the increasing craze for going to a gym or taking counsel from a dietician the wealthy seem to ensure their good health. But exercises can be done by all. In fact, an honest share of physical work is all you need to be healthy while some pay to exercise, others exercise to earn their pay.

Lastly, I would like to point out that diseases like cancer have not discriminated much between the rich and the poor, all are equally liable to become a victim to such diseases. The rich contract them due to a fast and stressful, work-oriented lifestyle, while the poor fall into the trap due to unhealthy habits

SECTION C

Literature Textbook : Kaleidoscope

Answer - 5

(a) i) Tao Ying had taken her son to a Buddhist temple and not bought a ticket for him as ~~he~~ his height was below 110 cm. But the guard at the temple measured him to be of 111 cm and humiliated Tao Ying for not buying a ticket for the son. Tao Ying later realises that the measurements at the temple were wrong and in order to restore her image as an ideal and honest mother in front of the son, she insists upon measuring her son's height again.

ii) The fact that everyone else feels that Xiao Ye is tall and grown up but his mother still insists that he is not yet tall makes him feel that the yellow tape in Tao Ying's hand has turned into a poisonous viper. He feels that his mother does not want to buy a ticket for him and so, wants him to remain shorter. He feels that his mother has cheated him.

(c) i) The relationship between Pity and Poverty is that there cannot exist any pity if there is no poverty. Only when some people have more resources than others, they start to pity those who do not have enough. Thus, pity arises only due to the existence of an unequal society, and is a negative emotion.

ii) In these lines, the poet visualises a society where there is economic equality and the lack of poverty, where everyone gets an equal access to resources. He also envisages of a society where everyone is happy. Thus, he feels that Mercy and Pity will no more exist in such an egalitarian society.

Answer - 6

(c)

(a) Raizel was the beautiful daughter of Melekh the watchmaker who lived in the town of Sencimin. She was Dr. Margolin's true love when he was young and lived in the same town. He was very fond of her and wished to marry her. But he failed in this as he was forced to leave the town due to the extermination of Jews in Germany during the second world war. Raizel later married and was soon shot dead by a Nazi. She met Dr. Margolin in the mysterious wedding at Brownsville which is said to be in a world where the souls of the dead live, not realising that what had killed them. She looked very young and beautiful at the wedding. Dr. Margolin prompted to marry her, but could not as he did not have any money with him. Soon, puzzled at this and the young looks of Raizel, he realised that he was actually dead. But in the end, he was happy with the fact that he was with Raizel and both of them enjoyed each others' company and were joyful at their meeting.

(c) In the poem 'Blood' by Kamala Das, many aspects of Indian society and history get highlighted. The ~~author~~ poetess shows how in some communities the inheritance of property is matrilineal. She also shows the bond that people of India have with their ancestral property and the respect and pride they hold for their ancestors. She also ~~carefully~~ examines how social status is decided by the accidents of birth and how belonging to a certain family is seen as a mark of superiority over other communities. She brings out the irony of belonging to a royal family and yet being unable to earn enough wealth to renovate the old house. She also brings out how our elderly population is degraded by the accidents of birth and what false pride they hold on is seen from her great grandmother. The income inequalities inequality in the society is also brought out in the poem. Lastly, the poem brings out that Indians are still pre-occupied with caste as a marker of social status and those who have earned money through their own hardwork are still said to have blood in their veins thick as a ~~gruel~~ gruel. However, the poet subtly challenges this view and suggests that things are changing.

Answer - 7

(a) Amartya Sen sees argumentation as a positive value. He feels that equality and social justice can exist in a society only when people are allowed the right to argumentation. Through the differing philosophies of Krishna and Arjun about 'Faring forward' and 'Faring well' he shows that arguments have to be provided on both sides before taking any decision.

Through the arguments of Yajnavalkya and Gargi he emphasizes how knowledge can not be verified without dialogue. Maitreyi's arguments show us how wealth and immortality do not correlate well and how we can seek the truth only through dialogue. In his examples about the argumentative traditions that have led to social reform, as under Buddhism and Jainism, between Bhrigu and Bharadwaj and among poet saints from different castes and classes like Kabir and Mirabai, Kshema and Ramdas, he brings out that it is the challenges and opposition raised by the lowest strata of the society that lead a society towards social equality. Amartya Sen also examines the role played by women in the

(b)

argumentative tradition which proves that there were not deep inequalities to an extent that our history suggests.

(b) On the day she had decided to elope with ~~For~~ Frank, Eveline is caught between a conflict to pursue her own happiness and the duty towards her family and her mother. She feels that Frank would save her from her father and the troubles of her life. He would respect her and love her, but on the other hand, she remembers that she had promised her mother to keep the family together after her death. She feels that she at least knows her home and her family members. She would be in a total new situation if she eloped with Frank. She finds her present life difficult, but not altogether unworthy of living. She remembers how her father had lately been of help to her and wondered what Harry would do alone, she also felt that she would somehow be secured in her present surroundings and did not like the total uncertainty of the new life. At the end, she chooses her ^{duty} filial promise and upkeeps the promise she had made to her mother. She decides

to stay home and not leave with Franks. She sacrifices her own happiness for her family.

(a)

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SECTION - D

Fiction

Answer - 9

(a) i Margayya was asked to get a red lotus from a pond in another village for his Lakshmi puja by the temple priest. Margayya reached the pond after a long journey and was just about to step into the water to fetch the lotus when he saw a man sitting near the pond. He asked him to get the lotus for him from the pond as he was wearing a pair of shorts. The other man agreed and then introduced himself as Dr. Pal. Margayya got into a short conversation with him when Pal offered to accompany Margayya uphill the road. He shared with him that he was a correspondent of the Silver Way newspaper and was also a sociologist. He urged Margayya to visit his home where he showed him the manuscript of his book on bedlife, a piece of cheap literature for Margayya. They also talked about the vegetation that grows near the lotus pond. Margayya took leave of him as he did not want to be in the company of a man who talked of vulgar things during his puja. Thus, that is how Margayya met

Dr. Pal for the first time

iii Margayya wanted to earn more money so that his son could go to a good school and hobnob with the children of important persons of the town like the supintendent of Police and Mangal Seth. He would buy his son a car all for himself once he came into college. He would send him abroad to Europe or America to earn degrees and complete his higher education, and then perhaps marry him to a judge's daughter and allow his wife to have all the dowry she wanted. To fulfill this dream, he arranged for a procession when Balu joined school and later got himself elected at a position on the school board to ensure that the son was not thrown out of school due to his mischief. He employed several personal tutors for his son. During his SSLC exams, he fussed over Balu and asked his wife to provide him with nutritious meal. He dropped him at his examination centre and constantly worried about him. Even after Balu failed the examination, Margayya was ready to use

(b)

his influence to ensure that the examiner let him pass through unfair means. He also felt that his son would become a doctor although he had scored a mere twelve out of hundred in hygiene. But at the end, Babu upset all the plans Margayya had for his bright future.

(b)

Yes, it is very true that Margayya is guilty of employing unfair means to become rich. Since the beginning, it is seen that he indulged into procuring the loan-application forms illegally. He charged money for services that ought not be charged for. He took advantage of the illiteracy of his clients and exploited them financially to secure his purse. He wasted all his money in the Lakshmi puja which he performed actually to earn the 'favour' of the goddess. He then went on to rely upon the wrong kind of man - Dr. Pal and published cheap literature just because it had the prospect of earning him a lot of money. He literally stole the work of another author and published it for his own good. He later on took again to the

money-lending business where he greedily impoverished his clients and ensured that their property came to him when they could not pay back their loans. He even ruined his son's marriage by not listening to the pundit and letting ^{only} ~~her~~ marry Brinda only because she was the daughter of a man who held lucrative property in the Mempal Hills. He took advantage of the situation created by the war and accepted deposits of black money from all people in his village and others just to fill his coffers. He highly neglected his family, especially his wife, acted like a misér, spoiled his son and behaved disrespectfully with many people just in his blind rush for money. At the end, all his fortunes drowned as he was unable to control his anger on Dr. Pal. A single rumour led to his ultimate financial downfall as he turned a bankrupt.

$$6 + 3\frac{1}{2} = 9\frac{1}{2}$$