

**CBSE TEST PAPER - 03**  
**Class - 12 English Core (Keeping Quiet)**

**General Instruction:**

- Question No. 1 to 3 carry four marks,
  - Question No. 4 to 10 carry Three marks.
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1. Read the extract and answer the following questions:

If we were not so single-minded  
about keeping our lives moving,  
and for once could do nothing,  
perhaps a huge silence  
might interrupt this sadness  
of never understanding ourselves  
and of threatening ourselves with death.

- i. What is the meaning of being “single-minded?”
- ii. What could interrupt the sadness?
- iii. What is the sadness all about?
- iv. Why we are not able to understand ourselves?

2. Read the extract and answer the following questions:

For once on the face of the Earth  
let's not speak in any language,  
let's stop for one second,  
and not move our arms so much

- i. What does the poet intend to do in the given lines?
- ii. What will happen if people will not speak in any language?
- iii. What does “not move our arms so much” mean?
- iv. Which common language is the poet talking about?

3. Read the extract and answer the following questions:

Those who prepare green wars,  
victory with no survivors,  
would put on clean clothes

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and walk about with their brothers  
in the shade, doing nothing.

- i. What is the meaning of “green wars?”
  - ii. What does putting on “clean clothes” signify?
  - iii. Does doing nothing advocates total inactivity?
  - iv. What is the tone of the poet in the above lines?
4. What is the purpose of such victories where no survivors are left?
  5. Why does the poet want us to ‘do nothing’ for once?
  6. What is the central idea of the poem? Explain.
  7. Explain ‘you keep quiet and I will go?’
  8. Explain ‘I want no truck with death.’
  9. What is man 'single-minded' about?
  10. What is the ‘sadness’ referred to in the poem?

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**Answers**

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1.
  - i. The basic purpose of human beings is to stay alive and hence they are engrossed only in working towards it single-mindedly.
  - ii. A moment of huge silence could interrupt the sadness.
  - iii. The sadness is all about not understanding ourselves.
  - iv. We are not able to understand ourselves because we are occupied by our works so much that we are not paying attention to what is happening with us.
2.
  - i. The poet intends to dissolve all the boundaries of cultures by prohibiting the men from speaking in any language.
  - ii. If the people will not speak in any language then they will get time to think and rethink about themselves and their activities.
  - iii. “Not move our arms so much” means not to indulge in any kind of violent activities.
  - iv. Language of silence is the common language the poet is talking about.
3.
  - i. Those who are destroying the Nature and exploiting the natural resources are paving the path for “green war.”
  - ii. The human beings have done a lot of mistakes and have created a lot of violence. Putting on “clean clothes” suggest bearing a clean image by removing all the stained actions of violence.
  - iii. No, doing nothing does not advocate total inactivity.
  - iv. The poet is trying to promote unity and brotherhood amongst the people from different race and community.
4. Victories with no survivors are the result of catastrophic wars where the human beings forget that they all belong to only one race and that is of humanity. Violence results only in death and destruction but the empty souls are satisfied with their deeds as they never put their mind to think about their origination. Such victories with no survivors are purposeless as the dead bodies cannot relish the taste of victory.
5. The poet wants us to ‘do nothing’ for once so that we could stop and think about our actions that we all are indulged in without knowing the purpose of it. ‘Doing nothing’ does not mean that we will stop thinking and will die, but it just signals towards the ceasing of all physical activities which lead to violence and aggression resulting into

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chaos and conflicts.

6. The central idea is something which connects the whole poem and help the readers understand the poem easily. In the poem 'Keeping Quiet' emphasis is laid upon introspection and retrospection to analyze and understand oneself well. This forms the central idea of the poem as soul searching will lead to establishment of peace and mutual understanding among people of different race and hence unity and brotherhood would be promoted.
7. The poet Pablo Neruda makes us understand from the very beginning of the poem that he is going to count twelve and we have to keep quiet. Then he gives the importance of keeping quiet in the followed paragraphs after which it becomes clear how a moment's silence is going to help us. Towards the end of the poem the poet feels that he had done his work of making the readers understand thus, he could go leaving the rest upon us.
8. 'I want no truck with death' shows the poet's intolerant attitude towards the confusion or doubt which might arise in the mind of the readers after reading the lines about 'doing nothing'. The poet says that keeping quiet and ceasing all activities does not mean death and he is not in any mood to tolerate such confused beliefs. So he strongly says that life is all about progressing and silence should be used as weapon to refuel the new zeal and enthusiasm.
9. Man 'single-mindedly' thinks that life is all about competing with others and proving his mettle. But, he forgets that life is about living to the fullest with a purpose or meaning. Most of the people continue to think single-mindedly and remain busy in worldly activities, thereby not finding any time to do self-introspection. It results into the cause of gloom and despair. Man has targeted himself towards scientific advancement and progress and is not paying any heed to the consequences of reckless progress.
10. The poet refers to the sadness of failing to understand oneself amidst monotonous and mundane existence. He also finds it sad that humanity is moving towards its own ruin owing to its exploitative actions. He regrets the rush of outdoing others that has made us forget the values of humanity.