

CBSE TEST PAPER-05
Class 12 English Core (Keeping Quiet)

General Instructions:-

- All questions are compulsory.
 - Question No.1 to 3 carries 4 marks each.
 - Question No. 4 to 10 carries 3 marks each.
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1. Read the following passage and answer the questions:

Fishermen in the cold sea
would not harm whales
and the man gathering salt
would look at his hurt hands.

- a. Why wouldn't the fishermen harm whales?
- b. Why would the salt gatherer look at his hurt hands?
- c. Why did the poet refer about a fisherman?
- d. Who is a salt gatherer?

2. Read the following passage and answer the questions:

Those who prepare green wars,
wars with gas, wars with fire,
victory with no survivors,
would put on clean clothes and
walk about with their brothers
in the shade, doing nothing

- a. What are 'green wars'?
- b. Explain 'victory with no survivors'.
- c. Who are the 'brothers'?
- d. Elucidate 'in the shade, doing nothing'.

3. Now we will count to twelve and we will all keep still.

- a. Name the poem and the poet of these lines.
- b. Why does the poet ask to count to twelve?

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- c. Why does the poet ask to keep still?
 - d. What is the meaning of “quiet and motionless”?
4. Why did the poet ask us to count up to twelve?
 5. Why did the poet want no truck with death?
 6. What kind of war it would be when there are no survivors?
 7. What reference has the poet made when he said, ‘to put on clean clothes’?
 8. What does earth teach us?
 9. What is the ‘sadness’ that the poet refers to in the poem?
 10. Do you think poet advocates total inactivity and death?

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Answers

1.
 - a. The fishermen wouldn't harm whales because they would be sitting still and doing nothing.
 - b. The salt gatherer would look at his hurt hands because only the time they realize the pain is the time when they are not working
 - c. The poet referred about a fisherman because he wanted to discuss the people who are cruel towards animals.
 - d. A salt gatherer is a person who collects the salt obtained from sea water.
2.
 - a. 'Green wars' are the wars that are fought for acquisition of land.
 - b. 'Victory with no survivors' refers to wars where no survivor remains.
 - c. 'Brothers' are the people who were thus far enemies but because of anti-war propaganda they have become brothers.
 - d. 'In the shade, doing nothing' refers to the idea of universal bonhomie or brotherhood spread to kill war.
3.
 - a. The name of the poem is Keeping Quiet, and the poet is Pablo Neruda.
 - b. There are only twelve sings on the clock to measure hours. So, the poet asks to count till the clock measures hours.
 - c. Too much activity and rush has brought misfortunes to mankind. It is better to be quiet and still according to the poet.
 - d. "Quiet and motionless" means still.
4. The poet asked us to count up to twelve because he measured the time that we may need to concentrate within without paying a heed to other thoughts.
5. The poet wanted no truck with death because he wanted us to introspect ourselves during the period of inactivity and stillness.
6. It would be either a chemical war or atomic war that would lead to disaster leaving no survivors. It was a case when atomic bomb was dropped on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan.
7. By saying, 'to put on clean clothes', the poet wanted to convey that people would cleanse their hearts of malice and enmity. Since there would be no hatred or malice they will walk like brothers in complete harmony.

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8. The earth teaches us that life is a continuous process. We see that during winter in western countries, all vegetative life comes to an end, but the seeds survive, and their life revives when spring comes. In the same fashion human race progresses.
 9. The 'sadness' that the poet refers to in the poem is the sadness of not understanding ourselves. We are struck in the rat race of life and don't have time to think about our actions or deeds. He advocates introspection to cleanse our hearts and souls.
 10. No, the poet does not advocate total inactivity or death. He makes it quite clear that 'stillness' should not be confused with "total inactivity". Since, total inactivity brings in death. But Neruda has "no truck with death", according to him stillness means halting of harmful and hostile human activities.