

**CBSE TEST PAPER-02**  
**Class 12 English Core (My Mother at Sixty-Six)**

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**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:

Driving from my parent's home to Cochin  
last Friday morning, I saw my mother,  
beside me,  
doze, open mouthed,  
her face ashen like that of a corpse

- a. Who is the poet of the poem?
- b. What is figure of speech used in the last line?
- c. Where was she driving to?
- d. What's the meaning of 'corpse'?

2. Read the following passage and answer the questions:

and realised with pain that she was  
as old as she looked  
but soon put that thought away

- a. What did the poet realise?
- b. What's the pain she is talking about?
- c. Why did she put that thought away?
- d. Explain 'she was as old as she looked'.

3. but all I said was,

see you soon, Amma,  
all I did was smile and smile and smile.....

- a. Why did she say, 'see you soon'?
- b. Why did she smile?

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- c. Why has the poet repeated the word 'smile' thrice?
  - d. Where was her mother?
4. What is the poet trying to convey about her mother's physical state?
  5. What is the realization that has dawned on the poet?
  6. 'Her face ashen like that of a corpse', elucidate.
  7. Which thought did the poet put away and why?
  8. Where had the poet gone from where she was returning from?
  9. What did the poet do at the airport?
  10. The whole poem is in a single sentence, punctuated by commas. Why did the poet use a single sentence?

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**Answers**

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1.
  - a. the poet of the poem 'My Mother at Sixty Six' is Kamala Das.
  - b. Figure of speech used in the last line is simile 'face ashen like that of a corpse.'
  - c. She was driving to the airport at Cochin.
  - d. 'corpse' means 'dead body'.
2.
  - a. The poet realized that she was leaving her mother alone in her old age.
  - b. she is talking about the pain of separation from her mother.
  - c. She put that thought away because she had to go to her own family and attend to her duties there.
  - d. 'she was as old as she looked' means she was old according to her age. At sixty-six she looked too old to survive long.
3.
  - a. She said, 'see you soon' because she wanted her mother to believe that she was going to live long to see her daughter come & meet her again.
  - b. She smiled suppress her emotions. She didn't want her mother to know that she was disturbed leaving her.
  - c. The poet has repeated the word 'smile' thrice to show that it was not a real smile but a pretence to show that she was happy.
  - d. Her mother was standing at the Airport a few yards away from the security check.
4. The poet was trying to convey that her mother was physically drained out and looked very old according to her age. She had the anxiety that she wouldn't be able to meet her alive when she went to her the next time.
5. The realization that dawned on the poet was that she was leaving her mother at a time when she needed her the most. Her mother looked very old. She compared her with a dead, described her face ashen like, pale wan and a late winter's moon.
6. 'Her face ashen like that of a corpse', symbolizes that the person has lost her the glow of the youth and eminent death looms large on her. The color of the face has turned grey and is devoid of any symbol of energy.
7. The thought the poet put away was that she wouldn't be able to meet her mother alive when she would visit her the next time. She knew that her mother had become very old and weak to last much longer. Her death was approaching and was inevitable.

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8. The poet gone to her mother's house. Since mother was old she had come to meet her and spend some time with her before losing her. She seems to be the only child of her parents and had come to her mother to comfort her.
  9. At the airport, the poet told her mother that she would meet her soon and gave a prolonged and extended smile. In her heart she knew that her mother was going to die soon but to console her and give her false hope she told her that she will meet her soon. The long smile was to show that she was comfortable leaving her.
  10. The whole poem is in a single sentence, punctuated by commas. The poet used a single sentence to indicate a single thread of thought interspersed with observations of the real world around. She also meant to express the way these are connected to the main idea.