

CBSE TEST PAPER-04

Class 12 English Core (Flamingo An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum)

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:

Surely, Shakespeare is wicked, the map a bad example,
With ships and sun and love tempting them to steal-
For lives that slyly turn in their cramped holes
From fog to endless night?

- a. What 'tempts' these children to steal?
- b. What are 'cramped holes'?
- c. Why has the poet put a question mark after 'endless night'?
- d. Why is Shakespeare 'wicked'?

2. On their slag heap, these children

Wear skins peeped through by bones and spectacles of steel
With mended glass, like bottle bits on stones.
All of their time and space are foggy slum.
So blot their maps with slums as big as doom.

- a. What is the figure of speech used in the third line?
- b. What is a 'doom'?
- c. Explain 'slag heap'.
- d. Why should their maps be blotted?

3. At back of the dim class

One unnoted, sweet and young.
His eyes live in a dream, Of squirrel's game, in tree room, other than this.

- a. Why is the class 'dim'?
- b. Why is the child called 'sweet and young'?
- c. What does the child want to enjoy?

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- d. Explain: 'other than this'.
4. 'All their time and space are foggy slum', elaborate.
 5. What are spectacles of steel with mended glass?
 6. Why do such children's lives turn in 'cramped holes'?
 7. Why is map a bad example?
 8. Why has the tall girl weighed down head?
 9. What is a squirrel game?
 10. Why has the poet made a reference to Catacombs?

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[Answers]

1.
 - a. When these children see the beauty of nature and the life enjoyed by the rich they get tempted to steal.
 - b. 'Cramped holes' are the dingy hutments where these children live.
 - c. The poet has put a question mark after 'endless night' to symbolize the fate of these children because their whole life is an endless night.
 - d. Shakespeare is 'wicked' because these children are not aware who he is and what's his importance in the literary world.
2.
 - a. The figure of speech used in the third line is simile (like bottle bits on stone).
 - b. 'Doom' here refers to an unfortunate and ill-fated end of life.
 - c. 'Slag heap' means a mound of waste emitted by chemical factories.
 - d. Their maps should be blotted because only then they would be able to see and enjoy the other side of life i.e. life enjoyed by the rich.
3.
 - a. Class refers to the classroom in the slum which is dark and dingy. Nobody bothers to lighten up the class, therefore the class is 'dim', it also signifies the future of the children of the class which is also 'dim'.
 - b. The child is called 'sweet and young' because he is an innocent child who does not care what is going on the class, rather he is busy in daydreaming.
 - c. The child wants to enjoy watching squirrels playing in the tree outside the classroom.
 - d. 'This' refers to the classroom which does not interest the boy. He wants to go elsewhere, particularly outside, where the squirrels are playing in the tree.
4. 'All their time and space are foggy slum' defines that their lives are full of misery and hardship. They have to slog for long hours to earn to get a square meal a day. Their future is dull and bleak as they don't get any opportunity to improve their lives.
5. Spectacles of steel with mended glass objectively means that when it comes to giving opportunity or help, the people in authority have a different treatment towards them thereby turning a blind eye to their plight.
6. Such children's lives turn in 'cramped holes' because they don't earn sufficient even to keep their body and soul together. They share space with many other people and animal

living under the same roof. They slog to earn and toil to live.

7. Map is a bad example for these children as they can't enjoy the beauty of nature presented on the map. The map brings to them the presentation of the ships, sunny beaches and flowery valleys. They are not aware of such things or places but know only their slums.
8. The tall girl has weighed down head because she is stressed and strained by the problems of her life. The responsibilities of life and atrocities of the society have overburdened her.
9. A squirrel is full of fun and frolic. She darts from place to place and tree to tree. She is thrifty and saves every left-over piece of meal and stores it in its tree hole. Her tree hole hides every saving akin to the fate of the people that is hidden from their eyes.
10. The poet made a reference to Catacombs, a long underground gallery with excavations in its sides for tombs. The lives of the children of slum school are similar to those cemeteries. They live in hutments that are dungeons where animals and humans co-exist making them look like cemeteries. They are born in slums, spend their entire life trying to earn sufficient to satisfy their hunger and thirst and die slogging in the slums.