

CBSE TEST PAPER-05

Class 12 English Core (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:

Unless, governor, inspector, visitor,

This map becomes their window and these windows

That shut upon their lives like catacombs,

Break O break open till they break the town

- a. Why there is the reference of governor, inspector, visitor?
- b. Who will break the town and why?
- c. Why does this map become their window?
- d. What is the suggestion of the poet to the authorities?

2. Read the following passage and answer the questions:

And show the children to green fields, and make their world

Run azure on gold sands, and let their tongues

Run naked into books the white and green leaves open

History theirs whose language is the sun.

- a. What is the meaning of 'azure'?
- b. What are white and green leaves?
- c. What are 'gold sands'?
- d. Whose tongues be allowed to run naked into books?

3. The paper seeming boy, with rat's eyes.

The stunted, unlucky heir

Of twisted bones, reciting a father's gnarled disease,

His lesson, from his desk.

- a. Explain: 'rat's eyes'.
- b. What is 'heir'?

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- c. Define 'gnarled disease'.
 - d. What is the meaning of 'a paper seeming boy'?
4. Why does the poet want these children be given varied facilities?
 5. What are the concerns of the poet that he wants to be resolved?
 6. When the poet made a reference to 'Open-handed map Awarding the world its world', what he does wanted to express?
 7. Explain 'And yet, for these Children, these windows, not this map, their world'.
 8. 'Spectacles of steel with mended glasses'. Is there any objective meaning of the line, if yes, explain?
 9. What is the condition of the school as referred to in the poem?
 10. The walls of the classroom are decorated with the pictures of 'Shakespeare', 'buildings with domes', 'world maps' and beautiful valleys. How do these contrast with the world of these children?

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Answers

1.
 - a. There is the reference of governor, inspector, visitor because the school gets improvement only when someone of importance visits it.
 - b. The poor will break the town if they are not provided opportunities to improve their financial condition and given good education.
 - c. This map becomes their window because they don't get to know the culture, history and monuments outside their slums and can see them on the map.
 - d. The suggestion of the poet to the authorities is to give these children an opportunity to get quality education and education about nature.
2.
 - a. The meaning of 'azure' is bright blue color like a cloudless sky.
 - b. They are the pages of the book of education. The white represents the printed word and the zeal or natural world. It is then that the children will be truly liberated and the inextinguishable spirit of human creativity will abide in them.
 - c. The golden sands on the beaches and the deserts on the earth are referred to as 'gold sands'.
 - d. The tongues of the slum children will be allowed to run naked into the books. They would delve into books and explore the realism of knowledge.
3.
 - a. Rat's eyes' always keep darting from one end to the other. Such eyes are always on a look out for food or for security.
 - b. A 'heir' is a successor or one who inherits something from his father or guardian.
 - c. 'Gnarled disease' is rugged and roughened or knotty voice, as from old age or work.
 - d. The meaning of 'a paper seeming boy' is a boy who is very lean and thin due to malnourishment or undernourishment.
4. The poet wants that these children should be given varied facilities so that they get proper education and enjoy the beauty of nature.
5. The concerns of the poet that he wants to be resolved are that the children of the slum are given education and they are given opportunity to get rid of their poverty.
6. When the poet made a reference to 'Open-handed map Awarding the world its world', he wanted to express that only this map shouldn't remain an instrument to know the world but these children should be given the opportunity to know the real world.

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7. The world of stinking slums is the world that belongs to these poverty stricken, ill fed and under-nourished children. 'These windows' reflect the world exposed on the maps. Education opens doors and windows to the 'other worlds' but it has failed in this instance to liberate these children both physically and intellectually from their restricted and impoverished existence. The world of the rich with all the comforts and luxuries of life is not their world as it is inaccessible for them.
 8. 'Spectacles of steel with mended glasses'. Yes, there is an objective meaning of the line. It talks about the attitude of the politicians and people in authority towards the slum children whom they treat with indifferent attitude.
 9. The condition of the school as referred to in the poem is miserable. The rooms are not painted for a long time. It was last painted when the school received donation. Their no proper lighting (dim class) and the windows of the classrooms open in slums.
 10. The walls of the classroom are decorated with the pictures of 'Shakespeare', 'buildings with domes', 'world maps' and beautiful valleys. On its contrary, the world of these children is full of filth, murk, lack of opportunity, no proper education, class rooms are pathetically maintained. There's no proper lighting in the class rooms. Walls were painted last when the school received donations. The paint has become dull and gives the feel that it's like the dull future of these children.