

**CBSE TEST PAPER-04**  
**Class 12 English Core (Keeping Quiet)**

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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:

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.

- a. Why doesn't the poet want anyone to speak in any language?
- b. What is the symbolic meaning of moving our arms?
- c. Who is the poet of the poem?
- d. Why did the poet ask to stop for one second?

2. Read the following passage and answer the questions:

It would be an exotic moment  
without rush, without engines,  
we would all be together  
in a sudden strangeness.

- a. What would be an exotic moment?
- b. Explain 'without rush, without engines'.
- c. What is the sudden strangeness?
- d. How can we all be together?

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

- a. What do fishermen do in the cold sea?
- b. What do the poet ask fishermen not to do?
- c. What has happened to the man gathering salt?
- d. What should the man gathering salt do?

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4. Explain 'If we were not so single-minded about keeping our lives moving'.
  5. What is the meaning of the last two lines?
  6. What are the wars with gas and wars with fire?
  7. Why doesn't the poet want us to be single minded?
  8. How do we threaten ourselves with death?
  9. Why will 'counting up to twelve and keeping still' help us achieve?
  10. When the poet says 'What I want should not be confused with total inactivity' what he wants to convey though he tells us to keep quiet and stay still?

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**Answers**

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1.
  - a. The poet doesn't want anyone to speak in any language because language create barriers and bring enmity.
  - b. The symbolic meaning of moving our arms stands for fighting with arms.
  - c. The poet of the poem is Pablo Neruda.
  - d. The poet asked to stop for one second because during that one second there would be no activity thus no war or enmity.
2.
  - a. The period of silence and stillness would be an exotic moment.
  - b. 'without rush, without engines' refers to the period of stillness when there would be no activity, and no one will rush for work and the factories & wars would stop.
  - c. The sudden strangeness is the time when everyone is quiet and still for all the time, we hear noises of moving vehicles, running factories, chirps of birds and voices of the people.
  - d. We all be together when we treat everyone as brother and forget our animosity.
3.
  - a. Fishermen generally catch fish, specially the whales, in the cold sea.
  - b. The poet asks fishermen not to hurt or injure the whales in the sea.
  - c. The man gathering salt has injured his hands.
  - d. The man should take care of his hurt hands.
4. 'If we were not so single-minded about keeping our lives moving' signifies that we are all very selfish and work against others for our own benefits. We try to solve our purpose at the cost of others.
5. In the last two lines of the poem, the poet wants to convey that he has understood the need of the hour and introspected within and wants us to introspect ourselves to acknowledge the futility of war.
6. The wars with gas stands for the wars with chemical gases. Such gases are very dangerous and eliminate entire population and wars with fire are the wars fought on the battle field and through air-raids or at sea.
7. The poet doesn't want us to be single minded because by being selfish we forget about the miseries of others. We try to achieve our goals harming others.
8. When we wage a war whether with weapons or verbal we threaten ourselves with death

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for others are not the only at risk, but we too are at risk. In a war anyone can be at the receiving end.

9. 'Counting up to twelve and keeping still' will help us in introspecting ourselves and know whatever we are doing is harmful or beneficial to us or to others and nature. It will assist us in attaining a state of peace and thus, see and appreciate the benefits of the symbiotic relationship that would exist between humans and between man and nature.
10. Through this line, the poet calls us to stop all activity, not speak in any language and not even move our arms. He wants us to introspect ourselves and find out our strengths and weaknesses. He also makes it quite clear that 'stillness' should not be confused with "total inactivity". Since, total inactivity brings in death. By 'stillness' he means halting of hostile activities. We should work not only for self-improvement but for the improvement of others so as to spread bonhomie.