



**Term-I**

## AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSROOM IN A SLUM

—Stephen Spender  
(1909-1995)



### STAND ALONE MCQs

[1 Mark each]

Q. 1. \_\_\_\_\_ is the literary device used in 'slums as big as doom'.

- (A) Simile
- (C) Alliteration

- (B) Metaphor
- (D) Personification

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

*Explanation:* As big as- simile.

Q. 2. The imprisoned minds and lives of the slum children can be released from their oppression if they are made familiar with the outer world. But this requires \_\_\_\_\_ transition.

- (A) quick
- (C) coarse

- (B) steady
- (D) magical

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

*Explanation:* This is actually possible only through some magic and reality is far-fetched.

Q. 3. Why is the last stanza unlike the rest of the poem?

- (A) It is the longest stanza.
- (B) It is the shortest stanza.
- (C) It displays optimistic attitude of the poet.
- (D) It displays pessimistic attitude of the poet.

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

*Explanation:* Last stanza is full of hope, struggle and revolt against the suppressing force.

Q. 4. What is the meaning of- 'future's painted with a fog'?

- (A) Blur and unclear future
- (C) Future in smoke

- (B) Grey coloured future
- (D) Polluted future

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

*Explanation:* Metaphorical representation for unpredictable future

Q. 5. 'So blot their maps with slums as big as doom'.

What does the poet show through this expression?

- (A) Blocked way in the slum.
- (B) Study of the map in detail.
- (C) Big maps show clear images.



(D) Poet's protest against social injustice and inequalities.

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

**Explanation:** Slums are like blots on the map of a civilized world as they indicate poverty and class inequality.

Q. 6. What does the poet desire for the children of the slums?

(A) He wishes them to be happy and healthy

(B) He wishes a good change for them

(C) He wants them to lead a healthy and happy life

(D) All of these

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

**Explanation:** He wants change of situation and wishes that the children of the slums should lead a happy and healthy life.

Q. 7. Based on the poem, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below.

**Statement 1:** The poet is in anguish at the plight of the children in slums and is sympathetic towards them.

**Statement 2:** The poet presents an exaggerated version of the struggles of the slum children, to garner sympathy.

(A) Statement 1 is true but Statement 2 is false.

(B) Statement 1 is false but Statement 2 is true.

(C) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are true.

(D) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 cannot be inferred.

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

Q. 8. A child in the slum experiencing the dreary life would have the least access to \_\_\_\_\_.

(A) shelter.

(B) information.

(C) water.

(D) education.

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

Q. 9. Pick the quote that highlights the contrasting image portrayed in the poem.

(A) 'The worst form of inequality is to try and make unequal things equal.'

(B) 'An imbalance between the rich and poor is the oldest and most fatal ailment of all republics.'

(C) 'We must work together to ensure equitable distribution of wealth, opportunity and power in our society.'

(D) 'No amount of artificial reinforcement can offset the natural inequalities of human individual.'

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

Q. 10. Pick phrases that portray 'poverty and hopelessness' in the poem.

1. Slag heap

2. Spectacles of steel

3. Gusty waves

4. Run azure on gold sands

5. Mended glass

6. Squirrel's game

7. Language is the sun

(A) 2, 4 and 7

(B) 1, 3 and 5

(C) 3, 4 and 6

(D) 1, 2 and 5

Ans. Option (D) is correct.



## EXTRACT BASED MCQs

Read the given extracts and answer the questions that follow:

(1 × 4 = 4 marks)

I. Far far from gusty waves these children's faces.

Like rootless weeds, the hair torn around their pallor:

The tall girl with her weighed-down head. The paper-

seeming boy, with rat's eyes. The stunted, unlucky heir

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

his lesson, from the desk. At back of the dim class

one unnoted, sweet and young.

(CBSE QB, 2021)

Q.1. The phrase 'weighed-down head' DOES NOT refer to being:

(A) burdened by poverty.

(B) ashamed at her plight.



(C) distressed due to difficulties.

(D) dizzy with a headache.

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

Q.2. Pick the option that matches the words / phrases with the literary device.

Word/ phrase

1. Like rootless weeds
2. Paper-seeming boy
3. Reciting

Literary device

- A. Metaphor
- B. Pun
- C. Synecdoche
- D. Simile

(A) 1-A, 2-D, 3-C

(B) 1-D, 2-B, 3-A

(C) 1-D, 2-A, 3-B

(D) 1-B, 2-A, 3-C

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

Q.3. Pick the option that enumerates the tone of the poet in this extract.

1. Apprehensive
3. Resentful
5. Disillusioned

2. Compassionate

4. Thoughtful

6. Woeful

(A) 2, 4 and 6

(B) 1, 4 and 5

(C) 3, 5 and 6

(D) 1, 3 and 6

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

Q.4. The 'gusty waves', most likely, indicate:

(A) survival and struggle.

(B) verve and brightness.

(C) drudgery and dullness.

(D) animation and alertness.

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

II. This map becomes their windows and these windows  
That shut upon their lives like catacombs,  
Break O break open till they break the town  
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.

(CBSE QB, 2021)

Q.1. Pick the option that is NOT TRUE according to this extract.

- (A) The children should be allowed to read books and form their opinions.
- (B) Education without breaking the shackles of poverty, is meaningless.
- (C) The policy makers show the reality of the real world to the children.
- (D) The children see the world of poverty and misery through the windows.

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

Q.2. Pick the options that match best with the phrase 'break o break open'.

1. break free

2. break silence

3. break out

4. break even

5. break through

6. break ground

(A) 1, 3 and 5

(B) 2, 3 and 6

(C) 1, 4 and 6

(D) 2, 3 and 5

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

Q.3. Look at the given book covers. Pick the option that reflects the meaning of 'catacomb' in the extract.

(CBSE QB, 2021)



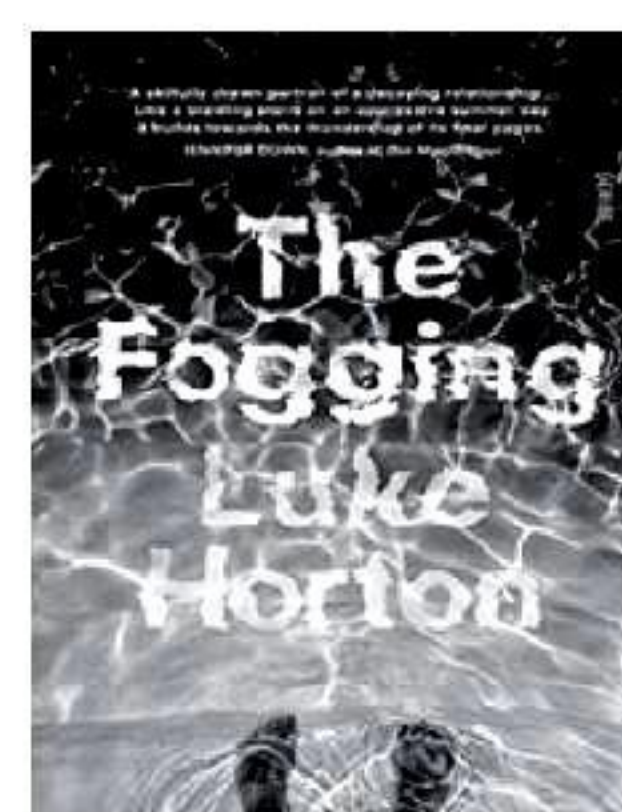
(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)







- (A) Option 1  
(C) Option 3

- (B) Option 2  
(D) Option 4

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

Q.4. On the basis of the extract, pick the opinion that is closest to that of the poet.

 (1)	The children should be given free time to play in the fields to develop their creativity.	 (2)	The children must be given freedom to experience the wholesome bounties of nature.
 (3)	The condition of the children can improve if they are shown the beautiful world out of their window.	 (4)	The children can spread light and awareness if they become morally responsible.

(CBSE QB, 2021)

- (A) Option 1  
(C) Option 3

- (B) Option 2  
(D) Option 4

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

III. On sour cream walls, donations, Shakespeare's head,  
Cloudless at dawn, civilized dome riding all cities.  
Belled, flowery, Tyrolean valley. Open-handed map  
Awarding the world its world. And yet, for these  
Children, these windows, not this map, their world,  
Where all their future's painted with a fog,

[CBSE, SQP, 2020–21]

Q.1. What does the expression 'sour cream walls' suggest?

- (A) Display of donated artefacts on the walls  
(C) Wall-to-wall furniture

- (B) Badly maintained walls  
(D) A poor choice of paint for walls

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

Q.2. The map of the world in the class room symbolizes :

- (A) hopes and aspirations of the children  
(C) a world that is unconnected to the children

- (B) travel plans of the school authorities  
(D) interconnectivity within the world

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

Q.3. The expression, 'Shakespeare's head' is an example of :

- (A) pun  
(C) parody

- (B) satire  
(D) irony

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

Q.4. In the extract, 'future's painted with a fog' suggests that the :

- (A) classroom is as foggy as the paint on the walls.  
(B) beautiful valleys are not a part of the children's future.  
(C) life ahead for the slum children is as unclear and hazy as fog.  
(D) fog often finds itself in the classrooms through broken windows.

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

IV. The stunted, unlucky heir  
Of twisted bones, reciting a father's gnarled disease,  
His lesson, from his desk. 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.

[Delhi Set-I, 2019]



**Q.1.** Who is the unlucky heir?

- (A) Boy with big hair
- (C) Boy with stunted growth

- (B) Boy with short hair
- (D) Boy with twisted lip

**Ans. Option (C) is correct.**

**Q.2.** What had he inherited?

- (A) Twisted bones
- (C) Stunted growth

- (B) Gnarled disease
- (D) All of these

**Ans. Option (D) is correct.**

**Q.3.** Who is sitting at the back of the dim class?

- (A) Dreamy boy
- (C) Intelligent boy

- (B) Muscle boy
- (D) Late comer boy

**Ans. Option (A) is correct.**

**Q.4.** How is he different from rest of the class?

- (A) Making drawings
- (C) Talking to other

- (B) Singing songs
- (D) Lost in his thoughts

**Ans. Option (D) is correct.**

**[AI] V.** Far far from gusty waves these children's faces.

Like rootless weeds, the hair torn round their pallor;

The tall girl with her weighed-down head.

[Delhi, Set-I, II, III, 2017]

**Q.1.** Who are these children?

- (A) They are elementary class students.
- (B) They are middle school students.
- (C) They are students from other countries.
- (D) They are parents of ex-students of the school.

**Ans. Option (A) is correct.**

**Q.2.** Why is the girl's head weighed down?

- (A) Due to riches
- (C) Due to mental exhaustion

- (B) Due to strong curly cap
- (D) All of these

**Ans. Option (C) is correct.**

**Q.3.** Which figure of speech is used here?

- (A) Simile
- (C) Metaphor

- (B) Alliteration
- (D) All of these

**Ans. Option (D) is correct.**

**Q.4.** What is the meaning of the word 'pallor'?

- (A) Pale face
- (C) Ears

- (B) School bag
- (D) Pony tail

**Ans. Option (A) is correct.**

**VI.** 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.

**Q.1.** Why was the class dim?

- (A) Lack of electricity
- (C) Lack of tube lights

- (B) Lack of windows
- (D) All of these

**Ans. Option (A) is correct.**

**Q.2.** What was he doing?

- (A) Sleeping
- (C) Dreaming

- (B) Eating
- (D) Singing

**Ans. Option (C) is correct.**

**Q.3.** How is the young child different from others?

- (A) He had books in his hands
- (C) He had rings in his fingers

- (B) He had food in his lunch box
- (D) He had hopes in his eyes

**Ans. Option (D) is correct.**



**Q.4.** What is a tree room?

- (A) Brick room built on tree branch
- (C) Hollow space inside the tree

- (B) Temporary room built on tree branch
- (D) Space between leaves on a branch

**Ans. Option (C) is correct.**

**VII.** On sour cream walls, donations, Shakespeare's head,  
Cloudless at dawn, civilized dome riding all cities.  
Belled, flowery, Tyrolese valley. Open-handed map,  
Awarding the world its world.

**Q.1.** What is the condition of the classroom wall?

- (A) State of maintenance
- (C) State of delight

- (B) State of neglect
- (D) State of richness

**Ans. Option (B) is correct.**

**Q.2.** What aspects show a civilized race?

- (A) Picture of Tyrolese valley
- (C) World map

- (B) Shakespeare's bust
- (D) All of these

**Ans. Option (D) is correct.**

**Q.3.** What is the specialty of the Tyrolese Valley?

- (A) Flowers
- (C) Carpets

- (B) Bells
- (D) Maps

**Ans. Option (A) is correct.**

**Q.4.** What type of map has been referred to here?

- (A) Close-handed map
- (C) Foldable map

- (B) Open-handed map
- (D) Globe

**Ans. Option (B) is correct.**

**VIII.** On sour cream walls, donations, Shakespeare's head,  
Cloudless at dawn, civilized dome riding all cities.  
Belled, flowery, Tyrolese valley.

**Q.1.** How were the walls built?

- (A) With donations
- (C) Waste material

- (B) Capital contribution
- (D) Brick and cement

**Ans. Option (A) is correct.**

**Q.2.** What do you find in the classroom?

- (A) Children from various sections of society
- (B) Undernourished children
- (C) Unity in Diversity
- (D) Polished and tiled surfaces

**Ans. Option (B) is correct.**

**Q.3.** What is the significance of the Tyrolese valley?

- (A) It is in perfect synchronisation with the environment of the classroom.
- (B) It is in contrast to the environment of the classroom.
- (C) It has a striking balance with the environment of the classroom.
- (D) The valley is also dull like the classroom.

**Ans. Option (B) is correct.**

**Q.4.** What does the word 'Belled' mean here?

- (A) The environment of the classroom.
- (C) The shape of the valley.

- (B) The environment of the valley.
- (D) None of these

**Ans. Option (C) is correct.**

**IX.** And, yet for these  
children, these windows, not this map their world,  
Where all their future's painted with a fog.

**Q.1.** Who are the 'children' referred to here?

- (A) Poor children
- (C) Children of all sections of the society

- (B) Rich children
- (D) Children belonging to foreign land

**Ans. Option (A) is correct.**



**Q.2.** Which map is the poet talking about in the above lines?

- (A) Asian map
- (B) European map
- (C) American map
- (D) World map

**Ans. Option (D) is correct.**

**Q.3.** What do the words 'these windows, their world' refer to?

- (A) Windows and world of slum.
- (B) Windows and world of classroom.
- (C) Windows of classroom and world of slum.
- (D) Windows of slum and world of classroom.

**Ans. Option (C) is correct.**

**Q.4.** What sort of future do the slum children have?

- (A) Pathetic
- (B) Wonderful
- (C) Bright
- (D) Dream come true

**Ans. Option (A) is correct.**

X. 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.

**Q.1.** Why is Shakespeare wicked?

- (A) His works have given way to these children.
- (B) His works are popular only with grown-ups.
- (C) His works are motivating for these children.
- (D) His works are of no use to these children.

**Ans. Option (D) is correct.**

**Q.2.** Why is the map a bad example?

- (A) Does not depict the world as a whole.
- (B) Does not depict some less important countries.
- (C) Does not depict the narrow lanes of the slums.
- (D) Does not depict the details of city.

**Ans. Option (C) is correct.**

**Q.3.** What is the condition of these children as described in these lines?

- (A) Their lives are full of brightness
- (B) Theirs lives are full of hopes for the future
- (C) Their lives are full of dullness
- (D) No indication in the poem.

**Ans. Option (C) is correct.**

**Q.4.** Explain, 'from fog to endless night'.

- (A) Foggy but certain
- (B) Foggy and uncertain
- (C) Fogless and bright
- (D) Fogless and certain

**Ans. Option (B) is correct.**