

CBSE TEST PAPER-04
Class 12 English Core (My Mother at Sixty-Six)

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:

and felt that old familiar ache,
my childhood's fear,

- a. How was the childhood's fear aroused?
- b. What was the childhood's fear?
- c. Why did she feel the old familiar ache?
- d. Name the poem from where these lines have been taken.

2. Read the following passage and answer the questions:

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?
- c. Why has the poet repeated the word 'smile' thrice?
- d. Where was her mother?

3. 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.

4. What is the familiar pain and ache the poet feels?

5. Why do we try to use words that we don't mean?

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6. The poet has compared her mother to a corpse, why?
 7. Why had the poet no recourse saves smiling?
 8. What do the parting words of the poet mean?
 9. What is the significance of the prolonged smile?
 10. In our life we take many actions that we don't want to take. Can we avoid such actions?

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Answers

1.
 - a. The childhood's fear was aroused when the poet was required to leave her parents either for education or some other reason.
 - b. The childhood's fear was losing her mother either temporarily or permanently.
 - c. She felt the old familiar ache because she observed that the mother has become very old and signs of death were looming large.
 - d. The poem from where these lines have been taken is 'My Mother at Sixty Six'.
2.
 - 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 and meet her again.
 - b. She smiled to 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.
3.
 - 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.
4. The familiar pain and ache the poet feels are the pangs of disturbed emotions she feels whenever she is separated from her mother.
5. We try to use words that we don't mean either because we don't want the other person to know our emotions or we try to console the other person against their thoughts.
6. The poet has compared her mother to a 'corpse' because her mother looked exhausted and ill and showed the signs of decay.
7. The poet had no recourse saves smiling because she wasn't able to show her emotions to her mother, nor she wanted her mother to lose heart.
8. The parting words of the poet were very significant both for the mother because she should be filled with the hope of meeting her daughter again before leaving the world

and for daughter to give herself a false hope that she would be able to meet her again soon.

9. The significance of the prolonged smile is to elude one's emotions. The extended smile is always a fake or smile under pretence. Such smile expresses concealed emotions and/or pretending to be happy against the odds.
10. We can't avoid taking certain actions that we don't wish to take because they stand for our duties and responsibilities. In the poem the poet had to leave her mother while she was supposed to be with her in her last days. Her mother was ill, withered, exhausted and emotionally shattered at the departure of her daughter. But the poet had to leave to attend to her responsibilities at her own home. Her action was against her wishes.