

CBSE TEST PAPER-05
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:

Driving from my parent's home
to Cochin last Friday morning,
I saw my mother, beside me,
doze, open mouthed, her face
ashen like that of a corpse
and realised with pain

- a. Why was the mother dozing?
- b. Why was her mouth open?
- c. What is ashen like?
- d. Which pain she realized?

2. Read the following passage and answer the questions:

and looked out at Young Trees sprinting,
the merry children spilling out of their homes,
but after the airport's security check,
standing a few yards away,
I looked again at her,
wan, pale as a late winter's moon and
felt that old familiar ache, my childhood's fear,

- a. Why did she look at her again?
- b. What is the figure of speech used in second line?
- c. Why is the mother compared to 'late winter's moon'?
- d. What is the familiar ache?

3. 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?
4. How was mother affected by the departure of the daughter?
 5. Why did the poet say 'children spilling out of their homes'?
 6. What was the thought of the poet when she wrote 'young trees sprinting'?
 7. Where was the poet before leaving for the airport? Where was she going?
 8. What was the poet's childhood fear? Why did she compare it with ache?
 9. What were the thoughts that the poet had to put away by looking out of the car?
 10. How has the poet compared the scene inside the car with the activities going outside?

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[Answers]

1.
 - a. The mother was dozing because she was tired, wearied and emotionally drained out and didn't want to disturb her daughter.
 - b. Her mouth was open because she was taking a nap. Some people sleep with mouth open when they have lost their teeth.
 - c. Ashen like is the pale or dull or ash like color of a person who is sick and wearied.
 - d. She realized with pain that this was her permanent separation from her mother.
2.
 - a. She looked at her again to assure herself that she was sleeping.
 - b. The figure of speech used in second line is metaphor (indirect comparison with liquid).
 - c. The mother is compared to 'late winter's moon' because she was nearing her death. Winter is symbolic of decay and late winter's moon being dull and lifeless gives the same expression.
 - d. The familiar ache is the pangs of uncertainty and emotional disturbance that she felt at every instance of separation from her mother.
3.
 - 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.
4. Mother was very disturbed at the departure of the daughter because she knew that she wouldn't be able to meet her before her death. She didn't express her emotions symbolically or explicitly so as not to disturb her daughter.
5. The poet used expression 'children spilling out of their homes' to express the merry making attitude of children who have lot of energy and exuberance against the sapped-out attitude of old people who hardly have the energy to bear their own burden.
6. When the poet wrote 'young trees sprinting' she was comparing old age with youth. Young sprinting trees reminded her of the energy, vivacity, vibrance and spirit of

endurance as against the lifeless, wearied and drained out energy of old people.

7. The poet was with her mother at her parental home near Cochin before leaving for the airport. She was going back to her own house where she was staying with her family to undertake her responsibility towards them.
8. The poet's childhood fear was losing her mother. It appears that the poet was single child of her parents and her father had passed away during her childhood. She compared it with ache because she felt the pangs of emotions while leaving her mother alone.
9. The thoughts that the poet had to put away by looking out of the car were the thoughts of separation from her mother. She seemed to have a great attachment for her mother. Now that she had become old and was on the verge of death, leaving her brought a guilt in her to leave her alone at such a moment.
10. The poet has compared the scene inside the car with that of the activities going outside. She has used stark images to contrast lively 'spilling' of children outside with lifeless face of her mother. The 'ashen' face of her mother is pale and lifeless like corpse. She was dozing off and was lost in herself. The 'ashen' and 'corpse-like' face is compared with the young trees 'sprinting' outside.