

CBSE TEST PAPER - 02
Class – 12 English Core (A Thing of Beauty)

General Instructions:

- All questions are compulsory
- Question No.1 to 3 carries 4 marks each.
- Question No. 4 to 10 carries 3 marks each.

1. Reference to Context-

“Some shape of beauty moves away the pall
From our dark spirits”

- a. How does beauty help us when we are burdened with grief?
- b. Explain; “Some shape of beauty.”
- c. Identify the figure of speech in the above lines.
- d. What makes the mid-forest brake rich?

2. Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth

Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,
Of all the unhealthy and o’er-darkened ways
Made for our searching: yes in spite of all,
Some shape of beauty moves away the pall
From our dark spirits.

- a. Why are we despondent?
- b. What removes “the pall from our dark spirits”?
- c. Explain, “the inhuman dearth of noble natures.”
- d. Identify the figure of speech in: “unhealthy and o’er darkened ways”.

3. And such too is the grandeur of the dooms

We have imagined for the mighty dead;
All lovely tales that we have heard or read;
An endless fountain of immortal drink,
Pouring unto us from heaven’s brink

- a. Who are the ‘mighty dead’? How do we know about them?
- b. What images does the poet use to convey that beauty is everlasting?

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- c. What is the effect of the 'immortal drink'?
 - d. What is the thing of beauty mentioned in these lines?
4. What image does the poet use to describe the beautiful bounty of the earth?
 5. How do beautiful things help us to live a happy life?
 6. What does Keats consider "an endless fountain of immortal drink" and why does he call it "immortal drink"?
 7. According to Keats, what spreads the pall of despondence over our dark spirits? How is it removed?
 8. How does a thing of beauty provide shelter and comfort?
 9. How is a thing of beauty a joy forever?
 10. What makes human beings love life in spite of troubles and sufferings?

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Answers

1.
 - a. Human life is full of trials and tribulations. We add to our troubles and make our lives more difficult by following evil ways. We hurt others as well as ourselves. This makes us despondent.
 - b. The various objects of beauty around us remove the pall from our dark spirits. Beautiful things have the power to make us happy.
 - c. Metaphor is used in 'pall from our dark spirits'. Pall means a cloud, here, a dark cloud of gloom and sadness. It is this beauty, creation of God which removes the sadness and darkness from our mind and soul.
 - d. The blooming of beautiful musk roses makes the mid-forest brake rich.
2.
 - a. Whenever we look at a beautiful object, we are filled with comfort and joy. When we are burdened with grief, a thing of beauty comes as a ray of hope and makes us forget our sorrow and suffering at least for some time.
 - b. Beauty is an abstract idea and has no specific shape. The poet here means beauty in some form or some beautiful object which pleases us.
 - c. The above lines present an example of metaphor. Our souls are steeped in sadness and disappointment which are compared to a pall or shroud covering the dead.
 - d. The figure of speech used in "unhealthy and o'er darkened ways" is transferred epithet.
3.
 - a. Our ancestors who were great in their own ways and the dead emperors have been referred to as the 'mighty dead'. We come to know about them by reading or hearing valorous tales, which speak of their innumerable sacrifices. They are a source of motivation for all who go through them.
 - b. 'Endless fountain' of joy is the image that has been used by the poet to convey that beauty is everlasting. Things of beauty are an eternal source of motivation, a precious gift from heaven which gives us infinite pleasure and happiness.
 - c. The 'immortal drink' that Nature's endless fountain pours on us gives us immense joy and pleasure.
 - d. The lovely tales of mighty men are the beautiful things mentioned in the lines.
4. The poet uses the image of 'an endless fountain of immortal drink' to describe the

beautiful bounty of the earth. The earth, like a fountain, pours unto us numerous beautiful sights like the sun, the moon, flowers, rivers and greenery.

5. We derive comfort and happiness when we look at the objects of beauty, and the lasting impression they leave on our minds is a source of permanent joy. Beautiful things bind us to the earth and help us strengthen our relationship with nature. They provide us relief from our everyday trials and tribulations and help us live a happy life.
6. Keats considers Nature's beauty as "an endless fountain of immortal drink". He calls this drink immortal as the pleasure and delight given by it never passes into nothingness. It only increases with time, it never fades away.
7. John Keats says that pain and suffering are a part of life. These bring us sadness and despondence. But still, we can find hope. The hope and motivation come from Nature and remove the pall of despondence from our spirits. The beautiful sights give us inspiration to continue the journey of life.
8. A thing of beauty provides shelter and comfort in many ways. It is like a bower, a place under the shade of a tree where we can rest. It gives us a sleep filled with sweet dreams. The streams and forests provide a cooling covert for us in the hot weather.
9. A thing of beauty is a joy forever because it is a permanent source of joy and inspiration and leaves a lasting impression on us. The pleasure and happiness given by it never fades away but keeps on increasing.
10. Human beings suffer from hopelessness and sadness. Our style of living often makes us hopeless and grim. We at times also, suffer due to the self-centered and wicked nature of others. In spite of all our troubles and sufferings, we are able to derive pleasure from our surroundings. The beautiful objects from Nature help us shed our gloom, give us a glimmer of hope, and make us love life amidst all troubles.